

**DEFEAT BILL 33**

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AGGRESSIVE WAR IN  
SOUTH VIETNAM





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# VIETNAM VICTORIES

The extent of the victories scored by the Liberation Front in Vietnam is becoming more clear every day. For a period of several years now virtually no part of the countryside has been in the control of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their puppets and what little they have been able to move in has always had to be surrendered to Liberation Front fighters at nightfall.

Following the recent magnificent Tet offensive, it has been clearly established that the aggressors no longer exercise any real degree of control over the main urban centers or even in their own specially-constructed military bases, every one of which is constantly under fire. With control of the countryside firmly in the hands of the people's forces, the final stage of the anti-imperialist battle in Vietnam, conquest of the cities and military bases, is now being approached. It will, of course, not be an easy victory. Cities will be taken and temporarily lost again for the enemy is still able to concentrate an enormous amount of firepower at some points. But what has been clearly established beyond all doubt is that the Vietnamese people will win — the aggressor will be defeated.

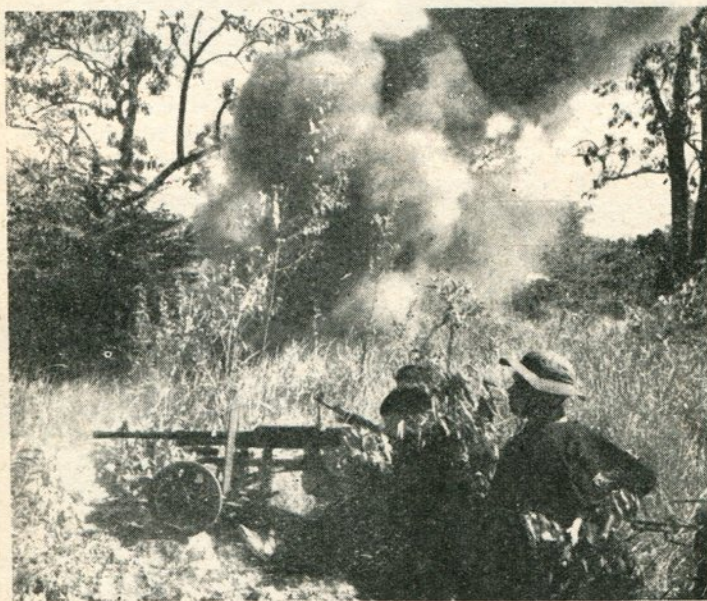
The recent people's victories are inducing important changes in the international movement in support of Vietnam. The anti-imperialist forces who have long called for a straight declaration of support for the program of the National Front of Liberation are now rapidly becoming a majority in the anti-war movement. The revisionists and Trotskyists in the movement, who



had joined together in proposing a policy of "an end to the fighting" in place of an all-out fight for a people's victory, are now discredited and the anti-war movement is maturing into an anti-imperialist movement.

Losses and defeats in Vietnam are putting enormous pressures on the aggressor at home and abroad. Losses in men and material must be replaced and even increased above former commitments. More hundreds of thousands of youth are to be dragooned into the armed forces, an act which can only result in bringing about an increase in the numbers participating in anti-war activities. Financial involvement will also become much greater, thus increasing the factors making for crisis, forcing a drastic cut in social welfare expenditures, which are already well below what is required and thus ensuring still more trouble in the slums and ghettos of the urban areas. The situation is of such serious proportions that a special army is being trained and equipped to occupy the cities of America this coming summer.

More can be done this year, and more should be done, to rally world-wide support for the National Front of Liberation and for a people's victory in Vietnam. Final defeat for the aggressor in Southeast Asia will make possible immediate advances for oppressed peoples all over the world. All-out for victory in Vietnam!



# U.S. AGGRESSORS: GET OUT OF VIETNAM



UP TO FEBRUARY 3, 1968

**2,749**

**U. S. planes were downed  
over North Viet Nam**





# Letters to the Editor

Dear Comrade Editor

Your article on "Trade, Aid and Exploitation" in the February issue of "Progressive Worker" was excellent. What else can the Soviet Union be but another imperialist country?

It is significant that on February 7th, Nikolai Patolichev, U.S.S.R. Minister of Foreign Trade told the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Delhi that: "the terms of trade offered by developing countries to socialist states should not be worse than those they offered to developed capitalist countries."

This at a time when neocolonial exploitation is conducted precisely through these "terms of trade"!

You are quite correct in the stand you take on Canadian independence; the Workers Party of Scotland (Marxist-Leninist) takes a similar stand here in relation to Scotland.

Yours fraternally,

I. R.,

Finsbury Communist Assc.



The Editor,  
Progressive Worker

Dear Comrades;

Having formed a Marxist discussion group, we feel the need of studying Mao's writings on Contradictions. His treatment of this vital facet of Dialectics is the very heart of understanding modern society and its complex manifestations. We want six copies of *Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-tung* and *Four Essays on Philosophy*. Enclosed is a check to help with the mailing.

The recent startling offensive by the N.L.F. is creating a huge crisis in the imperialistic circles of the U.S. In desperation they are issuing the most obscene and outrageous lies about the so-called "losses" of the "Viet Cong". For years now they have lied consistently and brazenly to lull the American people into a comfortable apathy as to "the successful pursuit of the war in Vietnam by our military forces".

They have boasted about their (paper) victories so long that it is intriguing to witness the revulsion among not only the general population but even among the higher circles who have swallowed their own propaganda.

Elbie Jay and his Rusks and Westmorelands are hanging high and dry on the horns of an insoluble dilemma. What they will do in their desperation is a study in psychological analysis. What do madmen do in desperation? Can anyone predict that they will behave sanely? The obvious action is withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. But this is **IMPOSSIBLE** for the U.S. to do at this time. Yet their military position there is untenable. They must maintain not only their occupation in a military sense, including the huge air and naval bases they have built there, but to save their face as the "greatest" power in the world. To secure their right to exploit the people of Asia also hinges on Vietnam and Korea. Their right to cheap raw materials and markets for investing their surplus capital must be secured! Finally, and perhaps the chief motive, is to justify the huge military production that is so vital to artificially stimulate their collapsing economy. What will the paranoids do now in the near future? Lately there have been rumours by Senator McCarthy that the Generals want to use "tactical" nuclear weapons in Viet Nam. The Government hotly denies such requests, but says nothing more. The less said by them the better. I have heard from reliable sources who are a position to know that the U.S. has not yet perfected a so-called tactical nuclear weapon

that can be used in artillery and can be pinpointed on a specific target, limited to that target without wide nuclear destruction from blast, firestorm and radiation.

So the question is up in the air at this point. If the Government becomes hysterical enough, the Generals frightened and furious enough, it is possible or maybe even probable that nuclear weapons will be used in Vietnam. The so-called deterrents to this madness are the position of the Soviet Union, and more importantly, the position of China.

The American people can be an effective force for deterrence if they make themselves heard loudly enough and strongly enough to shake the ruling class to its roots.

At this time it is not likely that public pressure will be quick enough or strong enough.

Being an election year adds to the general confusion. Some pollsters have said that though LBJ's popularity has dropped it can rise whenever he shows a strong pursuit of the war! I may ask, even though he may plan to use nuclear weapons? Are the American people, basically soft, politically backward, apathetic, arrogant and corrupted, really ready to face an atomic attack? I say categorically **NO!**

This may be the final deterrent: a fear of total destruction on our own soil. It was over a hundred years ago that war raged on our land. That war was very bloody for that time but it is nothing compared to what we face today.

In the final analysis I have a deep conviction that a defeated U.S. must leave Vietnam!

Sincerely and Comradely,  
J.R., Riverside, Calif.



Igor Gouzenko, Soviet cipher clerk who betrayed his socialist homeland and defected to Canada in 1945 is finding that living under capitalism has its problems. The *Toronto Telegram* recently reported that in spite of the two trust funds set up at the time to reward him for "services rendered," Gouzenko is having financial difficulties. An income that was quite comfortable 20 years ago is less so today.

As to the suggestion that Gouzenko go out and get a job, he rejects this out of hand although he would have no trouble finding one. There are numerous positions open for loyal and qualified security guards, company spies, personnel officers, union bureaucrats, and if worse came to worse, Gouzenko could always get a job as a strikebreaker or scab—that is, if he forced himself to do a little "humiliating and horribly-degrading physical labour."

But Gouzenko will not come out of hiding because, as he anachronistically maintains, "Soviet agents might assassinate me." Come now, Gouzenko, you're out of touch with reality and living behind the times! Even your old buddy Kerensky has now seen the light. He now believes that things "have changed in the Soviet Union" and "are getting better."

Although we do not even have one-millionth of an ounce of sympathy for Gouzenko's plight, we do offer him some advice. If you are lonely for your native land and find it tough-going here, why don't you apply to go back to Russia? The pastures may now be greener on the other side. Surely the present Soviet ruling group could use a man of your talent, experience and outlook. And who knows your application might be accepted along with an offer of a well paying position.

Just a little advice—a tip to someone who is down and out.

R. P.



# WORLD CRISIS OF IMPERIALISM

The condition of abject servitude in which certain nations are held by U.S. imperialism was never more vividly illustrated than during the more hectic days of the gold crises. The stark reality of the depths of this servitude was forcefully driven home in Johnson's emergency call to British Prime Minister Wilson with orders to close the London gold market. Wilson dutifully sped to Buckingham Palace to rouse sleeping royalty in order to secure the signature of the Queen on a proclamation giving effect to the Johnsonian order. So anxious was Wilson to speedily act on his master's orders that he completely neglected to inform his Minister of Foreign Affairs and, in consequence, received his resignation.

The crises atmosphere which released this chain of events is directly attributable to the world crises of imperialism which touches every capitalist nation, and most of all, the dominant imperialist country — the United States. The gold crisis, which the so-called "financial experts" try to represent as the cause of the crisis, and due mainly to the manipulations of unprincipled speculators, is not the cause at all, but one of the more spectacular effects. The European gold rush is a reflection of loss of confidence in the U.S. dollar, which is, in turn, attributable to the deep crisis of U.S. imperialism.

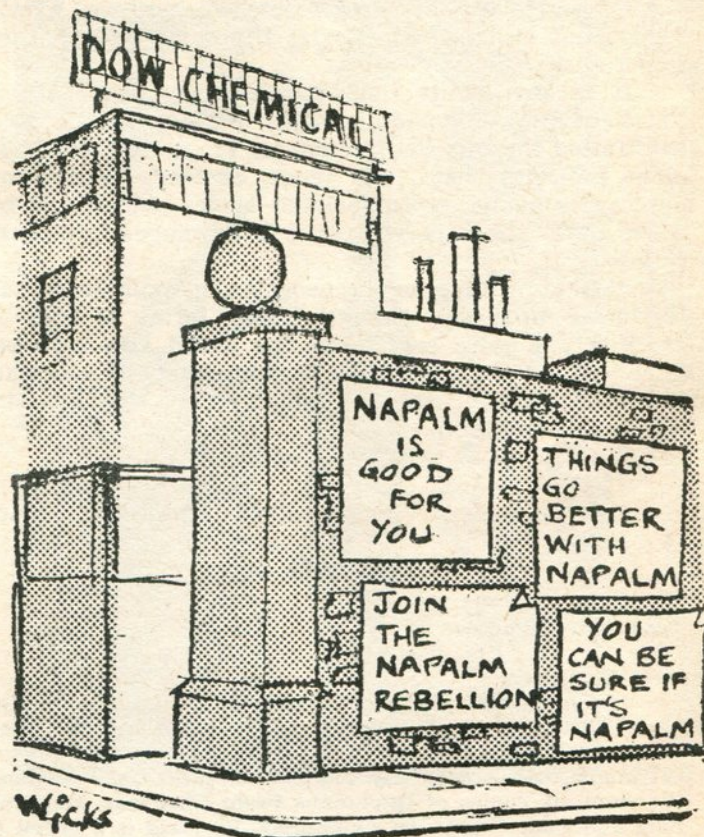
It is not impossible, of course, for the U.S. and its European satellites to be able to effect a temporary stabilization of the dollar. But it is certain to be of short duration and to make the crisis all the more devastating because of the postponement. One aspect of any such short-term solution will be a shifting of a large share of the burden of the American crisis to the shoulders of the European satellites by forcing them to hold large blocks of almost worthless paper money. That "solution" is bound to result in a sharpening of the contradictions between the U.S.A. and Western Europe, and ultimately to lead to a deepening of the world crisis of imperialism.

The U.S. deficit of international payments is currently running between \$3000 million and \$4000 million annually. The run on gold was due to speculation that the U.S. would devalue the dollar in an effort to reduce the deficit. Nations and individuals rushed to buy gold as protection against devaluation. Measures now being initiated may halt the run on gold; even give the illusion of temporary stability to the dollar, but they will do nothing to solve the deficit of international payments and since this is the crux of the matter the crisis may for the moment appear to be solved but it will, in reality, be gathering new momentum and will break out again soon with renewed intensity.

The greatest single contributing factor in the crisis is the successful people's anti-imperialist war in Vietnam. Cost of the imperialist war of aggression is about \$30,000 million per year and due to climb higher still. Included in this figure is the greater part of the sum accounting for the payments deficit. Not only will these costs not be reduced, they will increase in the months immediately ahead.

The magnificent Tet offensive inflicted serious defeats on the U.S. imperialists and their puppets and dispelled the last lingering illusions of a possible victory, or even a stand-off, for the imperialists. The U.S.

ruling class, unwilling — or unable — to quit the field, of battle, is compelled to expand the commitment of forces and materiel, and, in consequence, intensify the political and economic crisis.



There are but three areas in which the U.S. ruling class can take action to cut costs and thus reduce the payments deficit. These areas are: 1) The war of aggression in Vietnam. 2) Other overseas financial operations. 3) Domestic. We already know that expenditures in Vietnam will rise sharply in the immediate future thus intensifying the problem in that area instead of reducing it. That eliminates the largest block of financial commitments from consideration and leaves the other two to carry the entire burden.

In the area of "normal" overseas expenditures, there are foreign investments, purchases of goods, and loans. These have all become extremely important to those capitalist nations that have tied their destinies to U.S. imperialist ambitions and any sudden and sharp change will introduce additional problems in economies that are already crisis-ridden. This is particularly true of Britain, the most subservient of all the U.S. satellites in Europe and the one excluded from the operations of the European Common Market. The already announced policy of having U.S. foreign investors bring home the profits on their overseas investments — a policy that will strip the affected countries of enormous amounts of capital needed now more than ever before. The consequence will be an intensification of the contradictions and conflicts between the satellites and the U.S. imperialists and, simultaneously, a sharpening of the crisis within the satellite nations — unemployment, rising prices, lower living standards — resulting from



passing the burden of crisis on to the backs of the common people.

In the United States itself, there will be drastic cuts in already inadequate amounts appropriated for social welfare needs. The third of the nation already barely existing on a minimum of the necessities of life will be faced with outright physical destruction from hunger. Cuts in investment and production considered unnecessary to the aggression in Vietnam will increase unemployment, a situation which will be aggravated still further by rising prices and increased taxes. The critical need for additional manpower for the armed services will mean the demands of war will affect the lives of many more youth.

Effects of the domestic measures which the U.S. ruling class will be forced to institute will bring millions of new recruits to the anti-war, anti-imperialist, anti-poverty struggle, which can merge with the already bitter struggle for Black Liberation. The administration is already making preparations for such an eventuality. An army is being equipped and trained in the use of special equipment designed for so-called "riot control" and tested in Vietnam. Involved in a costly war of aggression in Vietnam, the U.S. ruling class must raise an army to occupy America.

The pressures of the crisis, from the overwhelming military defeats in Vietnam to the mounting resistance at home, have provoked a crisis of policy among the ruling class themselves. There is absolutely no difference among the ruling forces over the objectives to be achieved — domination of the world. This is always the case and normally, when advances are being made unimpeded by mass resistance and encountering only minimum difficulties, differences over policy are relatively unimportant. But in the face of the mass resistance which the aggressors are now encountering, differences in policy are a luxury the ruling class cannot afford.

However meaningless the differences of policy may be in terms of objectives they have the effect of encouraging the mass resistance which promoted the differences in the first place. This is a result which is the direct opposite of that desired by those who express a difference with the administration over the conduct of affairs. Additional forces are impelled into the struggle and the difficulties of the administration are increased a thousand-fold.

In 1964 when there were only 35,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam and commitments were as yet relatively light, mass resistance was not a critical consideration and there was unanimity among the ruling class on a policy that appeared then to be enjoying a measure of success. But the maturing of the resistance in Vietnam and the defeats inflicted on the U.S. and its puppets forcing greater commitments plus the rising tide of opposition at home and around the world have changed things drastically for the ruling class. In other words, the actions of the masses in resistance have brought the ruling class to the stage of crisis in their attempts to conquer the world.

The dominant faction in the U.S. ruling class know they must have domestic unity to stand even a minimum chance of success. There are two approaches to attempt to get unity among the American people.

The most desirable approach is by the ideological conviction of the mass of American people that the course chosen by the U.S. ruling class is the correct and only possible one. It seems obvious that this al-

ternative can be ruled out; the results in the New Hampshire primaries, where McCarthy was assailed as a traitor and an agent of Ho Chi Minh, would appear to be conclusive evidence of the inability of the administration to win by ideological conviction.

The other alternative is by compulsion. It seems entirely possible that the administration may make a formal declaration of war and declare all opposition treason against the nation. Mass suppression and mass arrests would become an important weapon in the ruling class at home. The Kennedy's and the McCarthy's would, of course, rush in to declare their loyalty to America and call for a postponement of all campaigns over differences on policy. But mass resistance would increase, not diminish, and the ruling class would reply with mass terror — in brief, fascism, wrapped in the Stars and Stripes.

If that should be allowed to occur then one must expect a wider war and a resort to the use of nuclear weapons, an attack on China. This is no fanciful speculation but a statement of the direction in which the U.S. ruling class will inevitably move. Only increased resistance of the masses of the people around the world in opposition to U.S. imperialist aggression can change the course of events. It is vital, therefore that the people be aroused to still more effective anti-imperialist resistance, it is up to the rest of us to increase our efforts and contribute to the struggle more than ever before.

Canadians bear a great responsibility in the struggle against U.S. imperialism. Our government is little better than an executive of puppets charged with protecting American investments. The \$30-billion of U.S. investments in Canada exceeds the total of such investments in all Latin American nations combined. So long as the Canadian rulers support U.S. imperialist ambitions and so long as the imperialists are allowed easy access to our rich natural resources we will be enhancing their ability to make war on the people.

Our fight for an independent Canadian trade union movement, for the independence of the nation, is part of the world-wide struggle against U.S. imperialism. To the extent that we are successful in asserting our independence and freeing our economy from U.S. domination we will contribute to the defeat of U.S. imperialist aggression and every victory of the people of Vietnam is a blow struck for our independence.

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# TRIBUNE DOES IT AGAIN

**Pacific Tribune**, official organ of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party, is up to its old tricks. The editorial board has once again demonstrated its intention of adhering to the long-established policy of refusing paid ads publicizing affairs organized by groups of which it disapproves. This policy is maintained regardless of how ridiculous it makes the C.P. bureaucrats appear when they complain about the regular news media not giving them fair and sufficient coverage.

As we have had occasion to state before, refusal to accept paid notices from those with whom they have political differences is quite a revealing action. When one adopts such a policy it can only mean that everything paid or otherwise, which appears in the **Tribune** has the political approval of the Party leaders. A brief glance at any issue of the paper will quickly show that this puts these fake radicals in strange company indeed. They have been known to quote approvingly from some of the nation's best known anti-Communists.

The latest refusal to accept a paid notice concerned a concert meeting in support of the National Liberation Front of Vietnam, being organized by a Vancouver Committee to Support the NLF. It follows that the **Tribune** is not only opposed to the local committee but is against any public campaign designed to mobilize support for the NLF. Since the editors have gone out of their way to comment approvingly on some of the attitudes expressed by a number of members of the Pearson government one must conclude they are in favour of the solutions they propose—solutions which would leave the U.S. in occupation of Vietnam.

This, of course, is no new development. Several years ago the **Tribune** and the Provincial Committee of the C.P. stated quite clearly their opposition to any group which desired victory for the NLF. All the **Tri-**

bune wants is to stop the fighting, even if stopping means accepting U.S. occupation. Of course, one can not reasonably expect more from a paper the editor of which has such a low level of understanding of the peoples' anti-imperialist war that he is capable of comparing the death of his pet cat with the slaughter of the heroic patriots of Vietnam. In his column of March 8, McEwen writes:

"When I watch Rex still searching around the place for his faithful companion, I think of a Vietnamese mother scratching in the scorched earth of her native village, looking for the child she bore in anguish and love. . ."

To McEwen's way of thinking, the restless searching of a German Shepherd dog for a dead cat has a value equal to the emotions of a bereaved mother in Vietnam — equal to the glory and agony of a heroic people who fight and die for freedom. One can expect anything, including refusal of paid notices in support of the Vietnamese, from someone whose level of political understanding is no higher than that.

The same issue of the paper castigated the Pearson government for sending \$100,000 to aid refugees in Viet Nam. The complaint was based mainly on the fact that the aid ends up in the hands of the corrupt government at Saigon — and that, we agree, is a point worth protesting. However, the same article heaped fulsome praise on the Party's committee for Canadian Aid for Vietnam Civilians but makes no mention of the fact that this C.P.-controlled committee channels part of the funds it raises from the Canadian people to that same corrupt Saigon government through the agency of the International Red Cross. That is an act of treachery even more worthy of protest.

It seems impossible for the **Tribune** to be able to sink any lower than the point it has already reached.



## CANADA ON THE I.C.C.

Both Laos and Vietnam have registered complaints on the activities of Canadian representatives on the International Control Commission (ICC) in recent months. This is by no means a new problem. Canada's role as a stooge for the U.S. in international affairs has often resulted in protests in many other places besides Vietnam.

Our government ostensibly supported the Geneva Agreement and accepted a large measure of responsibility for seeing to its effectiveness by accepting a position on the I.C.C. But Canadian representatives of the Commission have failed at any time to condemn the flagrant violation of the Agreement perpetrated by the United States. On the contrary these representatives have gone out of their way to condemn the people of Vietnam for their justified resistance to aggression. They have failed to condemn the cancellation of national elections, the massive build-up of U.S. forces, the equipping of a puppet army invasion of the demilitarized zone, bombing of the north and invasion and bombing of Laos as well as frequent raids into Cambodia, all of which constitutes the most flagrant

violations of the Geneva Agreement.

On the other hand, there is more than a modicum of evidence that Canadian members of the ICC have acted as espionage agents for the U.S. aggressor by making available to them detailed reports on their observations in the Northern part of Vietnam and in the liberated areas.

These facts expose the fraudulent approach of Canadian government Ministers when they claim they are for peace and justice in Vietnam. Their pleas for an end to the bombing and a start on negotiations is just one more ploy in support of U.S. imperialist objectives. Anything short of a condemnation of U.S. aggression and support for Vietnamese resistance is meaningless and contrary to the obligations and duties Canada accepted by becoming a member of the ICC.

Canadians in increasing numbers must demand that the Canadian government end their role of running dog for U.S. imperialism. Our future as a nation and simple national dignity demands that this be achieved immediately.





# canadian worker

## DEFEAT BILL 33

For even those whose eyes have been closed to the fascist nature of the Bennett government in B.C., bill 33 now before the legislature makes obvious the true role of this government. This vicious piece of anti-labour legislation called the Mediation Commission Act is far worse than either bills 42 or 43 and by imposing compulsory arbitration would in effect leave the trade union movement of B.C. legally powerless to fight against employers.

The legislation will set up a commission, the members of which will be appointed by the notoriously anti-labour provincial government. The key sections of the bill outlining the power of the commission are sections 18, 19 and 23. Section 18 deals with workers in private industry and section 19 with government employees but both groups have the same procedures applied to them. These sections state that where there is an unresolved dispute between employers and employees and a strike would effect the public interest the government can refer the dispute to the mediation commission, who can then make a final and binding settlement. If the strike is already in progress the commission can hand down a decision and all employees must return to work within 24 hours whether they accept the settlement or not. In other words you work on the terms dictated by the employer's commission or you face the consequences. The only difference between this type of compulsion and that practised by Hitler in Nazi Germany is that Bennett has not yet found it necessary to build camps to keep rebellious workers under control.

Section 23 says that no person shall strike or authorize a strike during the term of a collective agreement. Frequently workers find it necessary to use the wildcat strike weapon to force employers to live up to the terms of their contract or to settle grievances that develop. If workers cannot effectively put pressure on the company by means of a work stoppage, these grievances will go unresolved, since there will be no reason for the company to correct them.

What will happen to workers or unions who choose to ignore back to work orders from the commission or workers who pull a wildcat strike, is spelled out in section 51 of the bill. It states that any individual that commits a crime under the act is subject to a \$1,000 fine and any organization such as a union is subject to a \$10,000 fine, plus if defiance of the commission a fine of \$150 per day will be levied.

The reaction of business leaders in B.C., and no doubt across Canada, has been one of glee. J.W. Bishop, executive director of the amalgamated construction Association of B.C., said, "It (the legislation) is substantially what we recommended to the government some time ago." This statement and one by William Hamilton, president of the B.C. section of

the Canadian Manufacturers Association, to the effect that his association is not concerned about the compulsory aspects of the legislation makes it clear that this is purely and simply class legislation. The commission will be set up by the party of big business leaders in B.C. and the business leaders know that any decisions it makes will be in their interests.

At this moment when strong, militant working class leadership is needed in the struggle, the local labour fakers are running true to form. They have convened two meetings, one on February 26 to which paid labour representatives of Lower Mainland unions went and the other was attended by paid representatives from the entire province on March 5. A very small minority of those present spoke out in favour of a general strike but the majority, including Communist Party members completely neglected their responsibility to the workers they represent. The meeting decided to ask workers to give a day's pay to fight the bill, the understanding being that most of this money would go to the New Democratic Party in the hope that they will defeat the Social Credit government in the next provincial election. Many workers would no doubt be willing to part with a day's wages is something could be achieved by doing so. The B.C. labour movement however, remembers all too well the recent "Stamp Out Injunctions" campaign sponsored by the B.C. Federation of Labour which wasted \$25,000 of their hard earned money and achieved nothing. Raising money to support the N.D.P. would have the same result. While it is true that an N.D.P. government would probably do something about bill 33, Premier Bennett doesn't have to call another election for 3 and one half years, during which time the commission

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can break any strike. The time to get rid of bill 33 is now, not 3 and one half years in the future or longer if the Bennett government remains in power.

Some of the other "militant" actions decided upon by the conference were a lobby of Social Credit backbenchers to persuade them to vote against the bill, organizing area conferences, a large public meeting and if these fail to prevent passage of the legislation an appeal to the federal government in Ottawa to disallow it because it is contrary to the International Labour Organization. What a colossal waste of time! Once again so-called labour leaders will attempt to drain into harmless channels the energies of those who would protest against employers attacks. What help can B.C. workers expect to obtain from the federal government in this fight. The party that serves the interests of the Canadian ruling class in Ottawa is certainly not going to give any aid to the people they also help to exploit.

The only language that the government in Victoria understands is force, as was so clearly demonstrated by the recent victory of the government ferry

workers. Those labour leaders who still feel some responsibility to the people they represent must press for a general strike even though this is not going to be an easy task. On the one hand they will face the opposition of the Canadian Labour Congress bureaucrats, and on the other the cynicism of workers built up by years of misleadership. The workers of this province still remember the attempt at a general strike a couple of years ago which fizzled out and died at the last minute.

The time that has been wasted since Bill 33 was introduced may make it impossible to call a general strike to stop its passage into law, however the labour movement must begin organizing now with the purpose of calling a general strike when this legislation is used. If the Social Credit government is determined to pass strike-breaking legislation the labour movement must fight it in a united, militant manner every time it is used, and not allow their energy to be wasted on useless campaigns like the fight against injunctions has turned out to be.



## FOR A GENERAL STRIKE

At the time of writing it appears almost certain the British Columbia's anti-labour "Bill 33" will be passed into law by the Sacred majority in the legislature. The reactionary record of the Bennett government and the total subservience to U.S. interests in B.C. are a sure guarantee that we will get the worst possible labour laws they can provide. To expect different from Bennett, Bonner, Petersen and Loffmark and the other managers of Uncle Sam's British Columbia estate, would call for a belief in miracles. The important question to them, is not "What will Bennett and Company do?"—we already have the answer to that. What we are really concerned with is; "What will labour do?" When we begin to seek out the answer to that question recent experience — and present activity — is not at all reassuring.

We are still in a period which has lasted now for several years during which injunctions became the chief strike-breaking weapon in the hands of the employers. That condition prevailed in all Canada but was particularly virulent in B.C. where government and courts were especially active in the service of the monopolists. Two officials of the Fisherman's Union in B.C. are presently serving long prison sentences that were the end result of an anti-strike injunction.

Previous articles in P.W. which discussed the question suggested that the effort of the government and judicial representatives of the ruling class was directed toward whipping the bureaucratic leadership more closely into line — making them even subservient to employer interests. A sojourn in jail would soften them up. In British Columbia, in the past period, it was mainly union officials and not rank and file militants who were being jailed in anti-injunction cases.

In the course of the anti-injunction struggle it became clear that only the most determined and militant action, based on the united strength of the entire movement, could achieve victory for labour. The workers early demonstrated the fact that they were ready and willing to do battle. Allied Engineering, Oshawa and Peterborough all testified to the fact that the

workers were prepared to fight. But the so-called "leadership" were not equal to the challenge. They chose to "fight" according to the rules drawn up by the enemy—rules designed to protect the interests and privileges of the very class they proposed to "fight."



Whatever the cost to the labour movement the bourgeois respectability and legal positions of the union officials had to be maintained, so the fight was taken from the picket line into the bosses courts thus ensuring defeat for the workers and victory for the employers on a most important issue.

The injunction fiasco proved that the union officials



have no real intention of offering effective opposition to the employer attack. Meaningful resistance would demand total mobilization and the union bureaucrats are as fearful as the employers of an aroused rank and file. Faced with the alternative of mobilizing or capitulating the bureaucrat will choose the latter out of their fear of the former. Convinced, therefore, that they would encounter nothing more formidable than bluff, bluster and demagoguery, the employers determined to push ahead with the enactment of labour legislation that would serve employer interests more effectively than the Supreme Court injunctions. "Bill 33" is the result and it may well serve as a pattern for the rest of the country.

Injunctions were satisfactory for strike-breaking up to a point, but they had a serious shortcoming because, while they cleared the path for scabs, they could not put sufficient workers in a plant while scabs were in short supply. "Bill 33" takes care of this situation by providing for a compulsory return to work when a labour dispute is referred to a commission.

Developments since "Bill 33" was introduced in the legislature show that the bosses' confidence in the ability of the bureaucrats to capitulate was not misplaced. These so-called "leaders" are proposing tactics precisely the same as those that proved so disastrous in the anti-injunction campaign. Proposal for total mobilization of labour and full use of its united economic strength are being rejected as "ill-advised", "pre-mature" and adventuristic. Workers are asked to donate a day's wages to finance a publicity campaign, and legal actions and for the defeat of the Social Credit government and election of the N.D.P. The old slogan; "Stamp Out Injunctions", will be dusted off and changed to read; "Stamp Out Bill 33," with the same result in prospect — absolutely zero. Completely disregarding the fact that such legislation is quite within the power of the provincial government the bureaucrats babble about appealing to Ottawa to disallow it. Anything to avoid a fight.

It is significant that an emergency conference summoned by the executive of the B.C. Federation concentrated mainly on union officials and included only a small percentage of the rank and file. The results of such a loaded conference were a foregone conclusion — despite the protests of a valiant few legalism and petitions are the sole forms of protest now planned.

Just as in the case of the injunctions fiasco the bureaucrats are not without examples of how the fight against "Bill 33" should be conducted. As recently as last year the Quebec government undertook to enact similar legislation but the labour movement responded with preparations for a general strike and the bill was withdrawn. With this lesson in a correct method of struggle before them the union bureaucracy in B.C. has, nevertheless, decided to accept passage of "Bill 33" as inevitable and contest it in court when applied.

It seems clear that the so-called "leadership" of the labour movement in British Columbia are bent on leading the unions on the same disastrous course as that followed in the injunction escapade — a course that can lead only to certain defeat. If a truly effective fight is to be mounted against "Bill 33" the leadership for it will have to come from a different source than the established bureaucracy. The militants will have to step into the vanguard of the struggle.

Where does the revisionist-dominated Communist Party stand in this crisis? On point is already clear: 11

the Party members are far from united on a policy.

Party members who are either Party or trade union bureaucrats, together with the large middle-class element, want to protect their "respectability" rating and consolidate their friendly relations with the international union bureaucrats. (The desire for "respectability" prompted the Party leaders to order some young Party members to tender an abject public apology to Minister of Defence Hellyer for having given him a rough time at a Vancouver meeting). This dominant element have decreed that Party trade unionists must give support to whatever action is recommended by the B.C. Federation Social-democratic oriented bureaucrats. This decision they attempt to cover up by quoting statements made by some militants while they support the right-wing in practice.

"Bill 33" is referred to as "vicious" and "immoral", which evades the real issue and attempts to convey the impression that pointing this out will be sufficient to cause its defeat when reviewed in court. "Vicious" the Bill certainly is but morality has no bearing on the case. The Bill is vicious in the CLASS sense; it is straight ruling-class legislation and appeals to abstract "morality" will not erase it from the statute books.

The militants in the Party, — especially the youth — and non-Party militants in the unions, in contrast to the bureaucracy want to launch a mass struggle against this employer-promoted legislation. The chief weakness of this force is the lack of organization and central leadership which results in no unity of action. The bureaucrats are in control of the established organs of leadership which confronts the militants with the necessity of creating their own organs of leadership if they are to prove effective in the struggle. Militants who desire to exercise any influence on the course of events will have to be united on a policy and leadership which can offer an effective challenge to the entrenched bureaucracy.

It should be clear to all that a repetition of the injunctions fiasco will achieve nothing for labour. The injunctions operation was just a skirmish to test the mettle of the unions and soften up the bureaucrats. "Bill 33" is exactly what the bosses ordered and they will defend its use even more vigorously than they defended the use of injunctions. Tactics which proved less than worthless in the anti-injunction campaign will be a minus quantity in the battle to defeat 'Bill 33.'

The only possible hope for defeat of this anti-labour Bill lies along the path of serious and deliberate preparations for a general strike. Just the threat of a strike may prove sufficient as was the case in Quebec, but this must not be depended on, the strike must be prepared with serious intentions — bluff will not work.

Strike preparations cannot be left to the bureaucrats, who are opposed to such action in any case. Also, workers will not be so ready to place their fate in the hands of those who have shown themselves to be so incapable of coping with lesser problems. Leadership must be provided by the militants whose task it is to mobilize the rank and file for an uncompromising struggle to defeat "Bill 33."

Every militant must recognize, and bring to the attention of the union members, the fact that this is no longer a sharp skirmish such as that experienced in the injunction campaign. "Bill 33" is the legislative weapon designed to smash the labour movement in conditions of rapidly developing crisis of the capitalist system. The raw wind of fascism is blowing across the land and the fate of the labour movement is at stake.



# THE QUIET REVOLUTION?

On February 27 more than 2500 angry demonstrators surged through the streets of Montreal's stately english-speaking preserve of the Town of Mount Royal. Chanting "**Revolution**" and "**Quebec to the Workers**", they gave notice to U.S. imperialism and its Quebec and Canadian lieutenants that the "Quiet Revolution" isn't so quiet anymore.

In a show of solidarity, the C.N.T.U., Q.F.L., Union General des Etudiants de Quebec (U.G.E.Q.) and various independentiste groups confronted the state power and demonstrated their own. This was their answer to the mounting attacks by the ruling class on labour and living conditions in Quebec. A rejection of the facade passed off as democracy that attempts to veil the opposing interests of the great mass of people versus the state power of the bourgeoisie was shown by the demonstration.

The focus of the demonstration was the strike-bound **Seven-Up Company** located in the town of Mount Royal — also under strike by the C.N.T.U. **Union of Municipal Employees**. The mixed crowd of students (french- and english-speaking) and workers (the bulk of them C.N.T.U.), assembled and heard speeches by union and independentiste leaders before marching off, led by a red flag.

The first stop was at the 7-UP plant, which, forewarned, had boarded up its plate-glass doors and windows. A small contingent of T.M.R. (Town of Mount Royal) police watched helplessly as the demonstrators, shouting "**Down with scabs!**" tore down drain-pipes and used them and placard-sticks to break through the doors and windows. Through these gaping holes some fire-bombs were thrown in an unsuccessful attempt to put the plant out of operation, but these were quickly put out by the livelihood-stealing scabs inside.

Moving on, shouting "**Down with the bourgeoisie!**" at the silent mansions, the marchers tore down street signs and overturned salt-boxes and mail-boxes to make work for the scabbing TMR police force. Passing through the town's shopping circle, the windows of a few banks and supermarkets were smashed as the crowd cheered. At the town business offices, which were ringed by 75 TMR cops, augmented by 150 provincial police, the crowd threw taunts and missiles at them before proceeding to the less heavily-protected town hall, where a few windows were broken and a fire-bomb lobbed which fell short.

One cop who obviously had complete faith in the force of (bourgeois) law and order charged into the crowd after a worker. Open-mouthed, with a shocked expression, he quickly learned the fragility of this 'paper tiger', as the mass turned on him. Only a more prudent constable who pleaded for his release saved him from a worse beating.

Stopping again in front of a finance company building, the crowd smashed the glass doors and windows to cries of "**Down with the exploiters!**"

During the whole route of the march, the demonstrators wreaked havoc on the scab-maintained streets and boulevards. When a few over-rambunctious youths decided to extend this to individual houses, the strike-wise workers moved to stop them. Two photographers had their equipment broken by the suspicious strikers when they seemed to be over-ambitiously photograph-

ing individuals. A notoriously anti-Quebecois radio station's sound truck was similarly demolished.

The demonstration eventually wound its way back to the 7-UP plant where after a few more confrontations with the now-bolstered police line, it began to break up. At this point the police began attacking any stragglers isolated from the now diminished crowd. Even so, they were able to arrest only six people as the demonstrators moved off in groups and periodically converged on the police in order to protect one of its members. Those arrested were bailed out by the C.N.T.U. The sense of solidarity was evident throughout the demonstration as uniformed bus driver and helmeted construction worker banded together with bearded student against a common foe.

The two issues which culminated in the demonstration were only representative of a much deeper issue. The issue really is **who the country belongs to; who really runs the country; and IN WHOSE INTEREST SHOULD STATE POWER BE WIELDED?**

## Background to the TMR Strike

The TMR employees have been on strike for several months. The main issue is seniority rights which the TMR has refused to negotiate. This enables them to selectively lay off older workers or union militants whenever they like. The police force has been used as scab labour to fill in for the 100-odd employees. Private firms have been brought in for snow-removal etc. The picketing strikers have been harassed continually and mass picketing prohibited. Strikers passing through the town are stopped by the police and subjected to search and intimidation. The police have continuously attempted to provoke the strikers in order to beat or arrest them. According to reports TMR police chief "Boss Boyle" felt so powerful, that previous to the demonstration he threatened to arrest any "outside demonstrators" who set foot in his town.

## SEVEN-UP BACKGROUND

Seven-Up is wholly-owned in the United States, and, in addition to publishing no financial reports on its operations in Montreal or any other city, thumbs its nose at legislation governing labour relations when such legislation is not to its liking. Such is the case in the strike at the bottling plant in the Town of Mount Royal an upper-crust Anglo-Saxon enclave in French-speaking Montreal.

A CLC-affiliated international union, the Brewery and Soft Drink Workers, was certified to bargain for the employees but the company refused to negotiate, in defiance of the labour act, and attempted to operate with scabs. Despite the fact that the company was found guilty of violating the labour code — and fined the insignificant amount of \$1,000 for its crime — the local courts granted an injunction limiting the number of pickets to 5, whereupon goons seized advantage of the situation to beat up the outnumbered picketers.

This strike of an international union, and the C.N.T.U.-led strike of municipal employees in the Town of Mount Royal, have resulted in a broad and militant united movement in support of the strikers. The movement embraces such widely divergent elements as the radically-inclined C.N.T.U., its bitter rival the CLC Quebec Federation of Labour, elements of the Quebec



Liberal Party, Rene Levesque's Movement, and the Catholic Farmer's Union. The underlying cause which holds together such divergent forces is that of national independence for here is clearly demonstrated for all to see the fact, and results, of foreign domination of the economy and the subservience of the ruling forces

to the interests of foreign exploiters.

The demonstration reported on in the article above is far from the end of the movement — it is more in the nature of the beginning of an all-out attack on the alien bosses.



## 1877: THE ARMY BREAKS A STRIKE

The first use of armed troops in strikebreaking activities — including units of the Royal Navy — occurred at the Wellington colliery near Nanaimo on Vancouver Island in 1877. This event established a type of state intervention in strikes that was to last for many years; to some extent down to the present day, in the implied threat of more vigorous state intervention that hovers behind the anti-picketing injunctions freely dispensed by the courts. It will take only a slight sharpening of the crisis to bring a return of armed intervention. The strike, and the method of combating it, had its roots in the current economic and social conditions, but the personality and ambitions of the employer, Dunsmuir, played a large and important role in the way the strike developed and was handled.

Craigdarroch Castle, the turreted, medieval monstrosity that stands in the capital city of British Col-

umbia, is not only an unintentional monument to the thousands of coal miners who paid for its construction with their blood and sweat, but is also a reminder of the feudal outlook of the would-be Scottish Laird whose pretentious home it was.

Dunsmuir, accompanied by his wife and two daughters, arrived in the colony of Vancouver Island in 1851 and went to work as a miner for the Hudson's Bay Company, first at Fort Rupert and then at Nanaimo. It was while working at Nanaimo in 1855 that there occurred the events that made the first rung in the ladder for Dunsmuir's climb to wealth and power.

Working conditions in the coal mines were the worst possible — deplorable living standards and a constant threat to life and limb from explosions and falling rocks. The miners were held under contract, usually concluded before arrival in the Colony and



enforced by authority of existing laws. The employer, the Hudson's Bay Company, was itself the law personified. The Company's Chief Factor, Douglas, was governor of the Colony with the power of life and death over its inhabitants — a power free and ruthlessly used to advance the interests of the Company.

The fabulous tales of overnight fortunes that circulated around the gold-rush days of 1849 and the early fifties appeared to hold promise of an escape route to the ruthlessly exploited workers and indentured servants, all of them no more than a step above outright slavery. Ship's crews were deserting in large numbers and workers were leaving their jobs in defiance of contract provisions and the law.

Emboldened by these conditions which appeared favourable to them miners at the Nanaimo property of Hudson's Bay decided to quit work and make demands on the Company for an improvement in conditions. Preparations for a work stoppage began early in September 1855 and Robert Dunsmuir was one of those invited to participate. However, the future coal baron decided to take advantage of the situation to improve his own fortunes.

Dunsmuir began to work actively among a considerable number of Scot miners on the property with a view toward dissuading them from participating in the proposed strike. His efforts, and those of another man, Walker, were attended with sufficient success to ensure the defeat of the strike. Strikers were compelled to return to their jobs under terms considerably worse than those which prevailed prior to the work stoppage.

Immediately following defeat of the strike Dunsmuir and Walker applied to Governor Douglas for permission to work on their own. Permission was quickly granted and land granted for coal prospecting, to both strike-breakers. The speed with which action was taken to reward "loyal service" may be gathered from the fact that the strike began on September 11th and permission for independent work was granted on October 12th — a time lapse of 4 and one half weeks. In view of the slowness of communications between Nanaimo and Victoria more than a century ago the speed with which the application was handled was, to say the least, amazing.

Dunsmuir's richest property, the Wellington Seam — the one that was to bring him the bulk of his considerable wealth — was discovered in October 1869. Of course, Dunsmuir had not been without income since 1855. He had made a comfortable income from less favourable mines and from selling real estate in Nanaimo. But it was the Wellington Colliery that would bring him the wealth and power he had always craved.

Dunsmuir realized he required more ready funds than he possessed in order to capitalize on his discovery. He began a search for private individuals with substantial bankrolls and was at last successful when he encountered one Waldam Neston Diggle, a lieutenant on the Royal Navy gunboat "Grappler." A deed of partnership was executed in 1871 and the Wellington venture became known as the Dunsmuir, Diggle Company.

Later, in 1873, two more navel men were added as partners. Arthur Farquhar, a long-time friend, and later an Admiral, contributed \$12,000, while Captain Fredrick Wilbraham Egerton put in \$10,000. These naval officers undoubtedly proved valuable to Dunsmuir at a later date when he required military aid to suppress a strike. An item of interest is the fact that

Dunsmuir paid Diggle \$600,000 for his interest when he bought him out in 1883. A very healthy return indeed on the few thousand Diggle invested just twelve years previously, and it does not take into account the dividends paid during the 12 year period. Obviously Dunsmuir's ability to provide better wages and working conditions could not be seriously questioned. But personal wealth and power and the construction of a castle were, to Dunsmuir, more important things than the lives of miners and the welfare of their families.

The strike at the Wellington Colliery in 1877 was by no means the first such dispute in the colony. Although there were no known labour organizations there had been constantly recurring strikes, especially in the coal mines, from as early as 1851. But the Wellington strike was the first in which armed forces were employed and it set the pattern of labour relations for many years to come.

The coal miners had many grievances of long standing. Heading the list were the following:

- 1) Total absence of safety measures in an occupation where threat to life and limb was a constant companion.
- 2) Paid on a production basis the miners were being robbed of at least 10 percent of weight through the use of fixed scales.
- 3) Blasting powder, which the miners had to pay for, cost more at Wellington than in other mines and Dunsmuir failed to honor a promise to reduce the price.
- 4) The community was fenced in and Dunsmuir banned purchases made outside thus forcing the miners to purchase food, clothing and other items from Dunsmuir stores at inflated prices.
- 5) Wages were below what was required for a bare minimum of existence.

In 1876 prices dropped in San Francisco, the main market for the product from the Nanaimo coal fields. Dunsmuir seized on this development as an excuse for a drastic reduction in the already low rates paid the miners at Wellington. In July, 1876, a price cut of 32 per cent — from \$1.20 down to 81 cents — was made effective. Since living costs did not decline the rate reduction meant a catastrophic drop in the already low living standards of the workers.

How necessary was the reduction? The one hundred miners at Wellington were producing 5,000 tons of coal per month — an average of 50 tons per man at a total cost, after the reduction, of about \$40. Add to this the cost in wages of about 140 surface workers and the coal that was selling for \$8.50 in San Francisco was costing a grand total of no more the \$1.50 per ton to mine. Even when freight costs and wholesaler's profit was allowed for, Dunsmuir's profit return must have been considerable. It was this enormous spread between cost of production and marketing price that allowed Diggle to realize \$600,000 plus in twelve years and established the immense Dunsmuir fortune.

A delegation of miners visited Dunsmuir seeking to have the original rate restored. Dunsmuir refused and the men demanded appointment of an arbitrator to rule on the rates. This demand infuriated Dunsmuir and drew the retort that he "would allow no man to arbitrate on how much wages he paid his men."

In February 1877 most of the men at Wellington walked out and Dunsmuir responded by notifying the strikers they were "fired". He tried to recruit up to 75 workers in San Francisco and attempted to introduce a racial issue when he directed his scab-recruiting efforts chiefly toward Italian workman. However, most of the recruited in San Francisco refused to work when they discovered there was a strike in progress and



returned to California, their fare often paid by the strikers.

Dunsmuir had appealed to the Attorney General, A.C. Elliot, for assistance in getting work but had met with a refusal which drew the following threat contained in a letter dated April 20, 1877:

"My dear Mr. Elliot:

Your letter at hand. If the law cannot be carried out, I shall have to shut down the works for 12 months, and if there is not something done next week I shall do so. We have been put to too much expense for want of proper force and in haste.

Yours truly,  
Robert Dunsmuir.

The future "Laird of Craigdarroch" made good his threat. The miners were also ordered to vacate their houses which were owned by the company. It was considered that eviction would force the miners and their families to quit the district, leaving both houses and jobs to be taken over by newcomers to be recruited in distant places. Orders to vacate met with resistance and demonstrations were held resulting in clashes with police and company officials.

The "public be damned" attitude of the company was openly stated in the following notice inserted in Nanaimo "Free Press":

"There is an impression in the community that we are obliged to accede to the miners' demands: but for the benefit of those whom it may concern we wish to state publicly that we have no intention to ask any of them to work for us again at any price.

Signed: Dunsmuir, Diggle and Coy."

Dunsmuir sent son Alexander to Victoria to arrange with the Attorney General for government intervention in the strike, army protection for scabs and assistance in evicting strikers from the company-owned shacks. Attorney General Elliot sent the Sheriff to Nanaimo on the naval gunboat "Rocket". The Sheriff, assisted by twelve marines, succeeded in evicting two of the striking miners but was forced to retreat in the face of mounting resistance. He returned to Victoria on the "Rocket" to collect reinforcements to help in completing the job. The use of the "Rocket" and later the "Grappler" testified to Dunsmuir's considerable foresight in choosing naval officers as his partners in the Wellington mine. Having the Royal Navy for a partner greatly strengthened his hand.

The intention of the government to intervene on the side of the employer in the name of "upholding law order" was no secret, as evidenced by this report in the California "Daily Alta": "Our neighbours up North propose to have their law and order sustained, and rioting by strikers put down with a strong hand. The miners at Nanaimo appear to have carried the strike to a length which requires the Government to forcibly intervene, and it has determined to do so.

To quell the rioting at Nanaimo it has ordered two companies of infantry numbering 60 men, with 20 rounds of ball cartridges issued, to go from Victoria, and a company of infantry and field battery from New Westminster. A gunboat in full war array will form part of the expedition; also a body of police and deputy sheriffs to enforce law at all hazards, to arrest the rioters and take them to Victoria."

The gunboat "in full war array" was the "Grappler" on which Dunsmuir's chief partner, Diggle, served as lieutenant. The armed force "In the aid of the Civil Power" was under command of the Deputy Adjutant-general, Colonel Houghton, who made a complete

report on the incident—a report which is presently lodged in the archives of the army. Houghton's authority for intervention was based on a letter dated April 28, 1877, signed by a Stipendary Magistrate and three Justices of the Peace, all of whom were no doubt dependent on the Dunsmuir interests for a living. The letter of authority read:

"Whereas it has been brought to our notice that the miners on strike at the Wellington Colliery, Departure Bay, have resisted the Sheriff and his officers in the execution of their duty, and in our opinion a riot or disturbance of the peace is likely to occur when the Sheriff again attempts to perform his duty, and it is anticipated that such riot or disturbance will be beyond the power of the Civil Authorities to suppress or to prevent or deal with:

We therefore request you to call out such portion of the Active Militia as you consider necessary for the purpose of aiding the Civil Power and of preventing or suppressing any such anticipated riot or disturbance of the peace."

On the receipt of this communication Houghton conferred with the Attorney General of the province who agreed, on behalf of the government, to pay all of the expenses incurred by the expedition. (This amounted to \$18,000—a very large sum 90 years ago). Since it was reported that 100 men were directly involved, and that they enjoyed the sympathy of the majority of miners in other coal properties, it was considered desirable to call out all available militia men, "such course being most likely to bring the matter to a speedy and peaceful termination."

Notices were placed in the local press instructing the militia at New Westminster to parade at 7:30 P.M. on Sunday, 29 April and the provincial capital detachment to parade at the Drill Shed on the morning of the same day. No 1 and No 2 companies, Victoria Rifles, paraded with only three men absent on special leave. The two companies combined strength was three officers and fifty-five other ranks. This force embarked at 11 A.M. on the paddle-steamer "Maude" and set out for New Westminster to pick up the rest of the command.

After an 8-hour voyage, described as "rough", the "Maude" arrived at New Westminster where Colonel Houghton inspected No 1 company New Westminster Rifles and the Seymour Battery of Artillery. The battery had two 24-pounder brass cannon "but for this occasion they were armed with breech-loading Snider rifles and bayonets". Missing were just two riflemen, absent from the city. These units consisted of 4 officers and 46 other ranks. Houghton, therefore, had at his disposal a force of 108 armed men to confront 100 unarmed strikers. It was also reported that a New Westminster surgeon had volunteered his services and accompanied the armed band to Nanaimo. The entire force was crammed on board the "Maude" and departed for the scene of action at 3:30 A.M. Monday, docking at the wharf of Wellington Colliery early Monday morning. According to the official report filed by Colonel Houghton:

"... every available space in the Steamer had to be utilized even to the tables in the Saloon, which were densely packed with men both on top and underneath, and the floors of both the Saloon and the Main Decks completely covered. In fact the muster was somewhat larger than I expected and there was an insufficient supply of blankets and mattresses on board, notwithstanding the fact that I had borrowed forty pairs of the



former . . . "

Before landing each man was issued 20 rounds of ammunition (a total of over 2,000 rounds for use against approximately 100 strikers). The men were also the recipients of some advice from Colonel Houghton who is reported to have informed them of the nature of the duty confronting them when they disembarked. He remarked that they faced "an unpleasant task" that required "the greatest steadiness on the part of all ranks."

The militia took up positions in the centre of the community from which vantage point they could hasten to the aid of the Sheriff and police whose duties consisted of enforcing about twenty writs of eviction. While the Sheriffs and his deputies busied themselves ejecting miners from their homes, the police, assisted by the militia, placed a number of strike leaders under arrest and "led them away under military escort." Seven of these were later found guilty of "unlawfully and without legal authority compelling divers persons engaged by Dunsmuir and Diggle as miners to abstain from lawfully performing their work according to their said agreements." Sentences ranged up to four months, and "law and order" prevailed.

After several days of bustle and activity the Sheriff notified the Stendary Magistrate that "his work was accomplished". The "work accomplished" consisted of arresting strike leaders and forcing the more militant miners from the community. In all about 25 per cent of the strikers — the most determined and able — were removed from the strike front. Thus, after four months, the work of the militia was completed and the strike broken. What Dunsmuir was unable to accomplish on his own he managed to achieve with the aid of the state — the court, police and armed forces were all placed at the disposal of the employer.

The militia once more embarked on the steamer "Maude" and departed for New Westminster where the detachments from that district were landed and dismissed for duty, following which the "Maude" began the last leg of the voyage to Victoria. This, was destined to be an eventful voyage.

Shortly after leaving New Westminster the steamer ran aground on a Fraser River sandbar which delayed the journey two hours. The crossing was rough and night had fallen by the time the "Maude" approached Victoria — "a night as dark as it is well possible to imagine", according to the official report.

Trying to make port in the dark the "Maude" struck a rock and held fast in spite of all efforts to free her — efforts rendered more difficult by a falling tide. Being in no danger all hands settled down to await the morning, after an initial show of panic had been calmed by the quick action of the intrepid Colonel Houghton.

At dawn the stranded passengers hailed an Indian in a passing canoe who took to shore two messengers who walked the rest of the distance to Victoria bearing the news of the plight of the steamer "Maude". Rescue was effected five hours later by means of a Victoria steamer with the unlikely name of "Cariboo Fly." On this somewhat less than glorious note ended the initial venture of the B.C. militia into strikebreaking. The commander of the armed strikebreakers considered the expedition a great success and the concluding paragraphs of his official report constituted a strong recommendation for the continuation of the policy established at the Wellington Colliery. The report states:

"There can be no doubt of the fact that were it

not for the presence of the Militia at Wellington, the miners would have continued to set the law at defiance, and I am strongly of the opinion that had I sent up a small force they would have met with resistance and the affair unhappily would have ended in bloodshed."

"I think the movement will have a good moral effect upon the country, and I am satisfied that it has already given a stimulus to the Militia of this Province which will have a beneficial effect upon the organization in the future."

It appears that the general outlook of the Dunsmuir's changed very little, if at all, in some eighty years since the strike. In his book "From Coalmine to Castle," published in 1955, James Audain, one of the Dunsmuir Clan, warmly praises in the 20th century his ancestors feudal concepts which were all but dead in the 19th century. Audain writes:

"The driving force and perseverance that were the factors behind Robert Dunsmuir's success in his search for coal continued to help him make the Wellington Mine and his newly formed company a going concern. "The strike was behind him, and although his methods were direct, and he would tolerate no criticism or compromise, he was fair in the treatment he gave his workmen, and repaid loyalty and good service with its correct rewards."

The "correct rewards" for "loyalty" was ruthless exploitation with the added incentive of guns, bayonets and prison when the desperation of hunger drove the miners to forsake their docility and fight back. There was a re-enactment of the 1877 demonstration of force in 1903 and again in 1913. The Rev. John Hedley of Nanaimo, speaking in support of the striking miners in 1913, pointed out that in 5 years from 1904 to 1909 a total of 50 miners had been killed in the Dunsmuir mine at Extension alone. These men died as a result of gas explosions, but members of the Gas Committee in the mine were fired if they turned in an "unfavorable" report. Violent death and hunger were not allowed to interfere with the Dunsmuir profits.

The Dunsmuir's, together with the rest of the ruling class, have completed their primitive accumulation of capital and have fixed their stamp of ownership on all the means of production. During the last quarter century of relative stability of the capitalist system, the ruling class, aided by the trade union bureaucrats, have adopted more sophisticated methods of exploitation in which the rifle and bayonet are less conspicuous. But the ruling class are no less determined to maintain their rule and their profits today than they were a century ago and, given a sharpening of the crisis of capitalism, they will be prepared to resort once more to naked force. Lurking behind the anti-picketing injunctions are the rifle and the bayonet — the prisons are already in use. Let labour's resistance to the "legal" strangulation of strikes become really effective and the twentieth-century Dunsmuir's will soon show themselves to be as ruthless in defending their profits as their forebearers were almost a century ago.

#### Sources:

"Builders of British Columbia"—Bennett.

"No Power Greater"—Phillips.

"... In Aid of a Civil Power, 1877"—Capt. R. H. Roy.

"From Coalmine to Castle"—Audain.

"Address in Haliburton St. Church—1913"—Hedley.

"Royal Commission—1903 and 1913"—Ottawa reports

Contemporary Reports.



# CALL IT GENOCIDE

Millions of Canadians have a more intimate knowledge of America's concrete jungles than they have of Canada's Northland. Relatively few of our people venture into the vast expanse of Canadian territory that rims the Arctic circle. The country variously referred to as "The land of the midnight sun" and "The last Frontier" present a challenge that very few accept. Some do come from the more temperate climate to the southward, most to sojourn but a short time while they tap its rich natural resources in search of a fortune.

Even those few who do venture into the remote vastness of the Northern Territories rarely get to know the permanent inhabitants — Indians and Eskimos who spend their entire span of life there, just as their ancestors have done before them. Most of the so-called "information" about the north and the people is of the highly romanticized version found in most of the better known, but most fanciful, songs and stories of the "Frozen North," which are, to say the least, misleading. Works like Farley Mowat's "People of the Deer," which come closest to relating some of the true facts about the North and the people who inhabit it, are relegated to places of obscurity — momentary sensations soon to be forgotten, while the poems of Robert Service which, for the most part, glorify the despoilers of the land, are readily available and often committed to memory.

For most Canadians the native peoples of the Northern Regions are not quite real. They are but shadowy images projected on the screen of a limitless horizon. The reality of the north is spelled out in terms of its fabulous deposits of copper, lead, zinc, silver, gold, uranium-bearing ores etc., and our sole interest consists in devising methods to tap these rich deposits as a source of profits. In order to ensure that its riches will be efficiently and securely managed for the U.S. monopolists who exploit them we name a Minister of the Crown, an upstanding citizen of the Southern Region as its virtual dictator. To find a Commissioner of the Northwest Territories we go to ranks of the international trade union bureaucracy and unearth one whose sole qualification for the position appears to be loyalty to the political party presently in power. About the North he has little if any, knowledge.

Out of the established methods of operation we get a wealth of statistics about ore mined, miles of highway and railroad laid, some of the details of the enormous difficulties encountered in "opening up the North," but almost no information about the conditions of life of the native peoples. How many Canadians are there who ever heard about Indian children becoming ill, even dying, because they were unable to read the signs warning them the water they were drinking from stagnant pools was fouled with arsenic allowed to escape into the atmosphere from a U.S. owned gold mine — a condition easily rectified with installation of a filter.

So far as readily available information is concerned the people scarcely exist. For the most part discrimination, and neglect verging on genocide, are widely practiced in the North with hardly ever even the faintest sound of protest rising in defense of an oppressed people. American firms can include in their contracts of employment clauses forbidding their employees

the right to fraternize with the native people on threat of instant dismissal if the clause is violated. And the Supreme Court of Canada upholds the legal right of these alien firms to institute such practices in their area of operation. Native are rarely hired on northern projects because "high wages" might spoil them.

In view of past experience it is not too surprising that the government is able to announce economies in Northern expenditures that spell almost certain death for many Indians and Eskimos. This is the case in the recent announcement respecting measures to be taken to restrict expenditures on health and welfare services in the North.

The government, through its Minister for Northern Affairs, Arthur Laing, insists that no cuts in expenditures are contemplated. But when we examine the basis for this claim we will find that, nevertheless, drastic cuts will be instituted in such services for the native peoples of the North. What is the reality of the situation?

The infant mortality rate in the Northern Regions is about six times what it is in other areas of Canada. The average life span is just under 21 years. TB and bacterial meningitis, which could be wiped out if the effort were made are approaching epidemic proportions.

These catastrophic conditions existed despite the fact last year's health and welfare budget was overspent by the amount of \$400,000. And it is in respect of this amount by which the budget was overspent that the government Ministers and spokesmen play their political games with human lives at stake, and lie to the people in the process.

If the budgeted amount plus \$400,000 was not sufficient to take care of last year's needs, then it is clear that the budget, plus \$400,000, plus a substantial additional amount will be required to take care of minimum needs in the current year. But the government insists that the Department limit itself to the amount provided in the budget and when the Ministers claim the budget is not going to be reduced they are, in essence, lying to the Canadian electorate by deliberately conveying the impression that **expenditures** and consequently services, are not to be cut.

The truth is that last year's inadequate expenditure is to be reduced by \$400,000, a cold-blooded and calculated act which guarantees that existing inadequate and inhuman standards of northern health and welfare services will deteriorate still further. Staff cuts, reduction of nursing and emergency services such as air ambulance service so vital to the remote and isolated regions of the North, have already been instituted and there is not sufficient political double-talk to hide the fact that many deaths will result from curtailment of these essential services.

An event which helps to sharply underline the criminality of these actions, is the declared intention of the Federal government responsible for cutting \$400,000 from the already inadequate expenditure on Northern health and welfare services to provide a minimum of \$100 million to construct a port so the American Kaiser Coal Company can reap millions in profits shipping Canadian coal to Japan. There is no more classic example of Canadian ruling class sub-



servience to American imperialist interests.

As for the inhuman treatment of the native peoples of the North: Nuremberg had a word for it — **genocide**.  
**RED POWER IN TOWN**

A group of Indian youth in B.C. have joined together to form the Native Alliance for Red Power (NARP). They have issued a public leaflet and a statement of aims as follows.

(1) That the Indians Affairs branch be under the control of, and staffed by, Indians, up to and including a Minister of the Crown, and these representatives be elected and responsible to the Indians of Canada.

(2) That this new Indian Affairs Department prepare a new Indian Act. removing all discriminatory clauses, and including the following points:

a) that the revised Act declare Indians lands sovereign territory within the Canadian state.

b) that the Act set down a democratic political framework by which the Indian people may govern themselves and their lands as a sovereign nation or regions



within the Canadian Nation.

(3) That an immediate start be made to up date the education of Indian Youth by firstly replacing the parochial school system with local boards elected by the residents of the reserve. The funds for this will come from the Indian Affairs branch.

(4) To struggle for the perservation and extension of cultural heritage.

The leaflet distributed by NARP begins with: "When you came, we had the land and you had the bibles. Now we have the bibles and you have the land" and goes on to state: "Residential schools are perfect training grounds for the integration of Indian people into the penitentiaries and 'skid rows' of our land."

One of the first public acts of the members of NARP was to organize a demonstration outside a convention of parochial school teachers at a Vancouver hotel. The address of NARP is: The Native Alliance for Red Power, 3490 West 7th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.

# CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF N.L.F.

On Friday night, March 15th, a concert was held here in Vancouver in support of the **National Liberation Front of South Vietnam**. The 500 plus in attendance were treated to an entertaining evening of fine song, poetry and music. This was the first concert of its kind where entertainers and the audience were rallied to give their unqualified support for the Vietnamese people.

The Organizers, the Committee to Support the National Liberation Front, should be congratulated for the fine job of organizing the concert and for the smooth manner in which it was carried out.

The Master of Ceremonies, prominent trade unionist Tom Clark appealed directly to the audience to give what they could and stated that all monies collected would go directly to the NLF as the committee had undertaken to raise the costs of the meeting by other means.

The varied program included the folksinging sister and brother team of Sheila and Don Fraser who sang Bob Dylan's "Masters of War" and "I See a New Day"; Vera Johnson's eulogies to "Che" and Mohammed Ali and the poetry of Pat Lowther. The anti-imperialist song of Bonnie Beckman; the ballads of the struggle of the Canadian working class by Skip and Joe such as "Red Iron, Hard Rock and Deep Water" plus "The Dam Song" were also highlights of the evening. Roy Lowther's political satire on the piano brought many laughs while Tom Hawkin wound up the program with several songs with guitar and banjo.

A good deal of literature from Vietnam was given away by the committee and copies of the new political programme of the NLF were widely distributed. A number of donations came in during the following week from people unable to attend which swelled the total collection to over two hundred dollars.

The Committee is now working to rally support for the NLF by urging people to attend the forthcoming April demonstration and march in support of the NLF. Future concerts and meetings are in the offing.

One point that needs mentioning in light of the successes of the committees activities that is that the concert was victorious in spite of the activities of the revisionist Communist Party of Canada. There is a great deal of admiration for the NLF here in Canada which can easily be turned into all out support if given proper leadership. The CP has consistly sidetracked this support into such slogans as "Peace," "Negotiations" etc. The masses of people just won't come out to demonstrate against an unnamed enemy and for some vague unrealistic solution. People however will come out to support a just cause as they know the difference between right and wrong. If we are to build a truly broad anti-imperialist movement in support of the people of Vietnam a sharp struggle will have to be waged against the enemies of the people's forces.

**18 Victory to the National Liberation Front!**



# THE N.D.P. VS. THE WORKERS

The news that NDP Member of Parliament Max Saltsman was faced with a strike action by workers in his Galt, Ontario, cleaning plants is no surprise. Last September, the Retail Clerks international union finally won certification of the laundry workers employed by small-businessman Saltsman. Now the union, out to win its first contract, runs head into the opposition of "Socialist"-employer Saltsman.

One day not so very long ago, at an election meeting for the NDP, Max Saltsman said: "Workers cannot live on less than \$1.75 an hour in today's society." But the present wage at the Galt cleaning plants is \$1.10; the "company offer" is \$1.25 to start, with increases for skilled workers up to \$1.45!

Not only that. Prior to the union's certification, Saltsman was granting his workers free cleaning privileges—he was a "progressive" employer. Now that the first contract is coming, the workers are to be denied that privilege and charged \$8. a week for dry-cleaning. It just so happens that the increase offered by Saltsman amounts to exactly \$8. a week over four years.

This employer's counter-attack has been particularly fierce. Before any strike, there was a lock-out at one plant and a lay-off of three workers at another. This shows, says Saltsman, that he is "prepared to fight." The union protested to the Ontario labour department about "unfair labour practises." Wilson's ruling Labour Party in Britain cannot provide a worse anti-union scandal than this Social-Democratic spokesman right here in Canada.

Saltsman adds insult to injury. "We feel cleaning privileges was a management prerogative. Free cleaning is not a proper matter for negotiations in a contract. Ford workers don't bargain for free cars or supermarket workers for groceries." But Saltsman was

already in the practise of giving free cleaning; Ford has yet to give away cars.

Who is this petty employer-politican? Just another Tory landlord carrying the cause of higher rents to Parliament? Not at all. Saltsman is the NDP's champion of "consumer affairs"! With the NDP in power, could Canadians expect socialism, or even a living wage? Saltsman says he can't afford to pay laundry workers his own suggested minimum wage.

Saltsman along with Renwick and Stephen Lewis, typifies the "New Leader" image of the NDP. He is an architect of that party's disavowal of even the name "Socialism." At the last National Convention, he led the fight against nationalization of (American) industry, and drafted the **Resolution** which emerged, the NDP's biggest retreat yet. Saltsman's line goes: Nationalization if necessary, but not necessarily nationalization. The Liberals could not have done better.

The Galt workers know this bourgeois for what he is, not what he pretends to be. A perfect example of the so-called businessman-Socialist, he typifies the entire NDP leadership and ideology. When NDP spokesman Fisher refused to quit the Telegram offices as a columnist during the bitter ITU strike, he gave the same example. It comes as no surprise—millionaires and corporate lawyers, professional politicians careerists to the last man, will always support management, American investment and injunctions. They are all enemies of Labour.

Meanwhile, Trotskyites and Revisionists alike prattle on about winning the NDP to socialism or uniting with the NDP against injunctions. Flying in the face of reality, they merge their words with those of the millionaires, and become the latter's spokesmen.



## EASTERN EUROPE

The series of tumultuous events presently occurring in Eastern Europe are reported in the press of the western capitalist nations as though a popular revolution were taking place. But one important question that remains untouched is how it is possible for capitalists to be so overjoyed about a revolution. For example, the United States, the most bellicose imperialist nation the world has ever known, is seriously discussing a return of Czechoslovakia's gold reserves, which were seized some twenty years ago. The **New York Times**, which reflects the opinion of big business in the U.S., supports the proposal on the gold reserves just as it supported their seizure. The **Times** also suggests the United States could help "the present positive evolution in Czechoslovakia" by extending the privilege of most-favoured nation.

This exceptionally friendly attitude of the U.S. ruling class toward events in Eastern Europe certainly raises suspicions in the minds of working people although a number of petty-bourgeois elements and intellectuals who have been under the influence of the revisionist Communist Party for some time are rushing

in to protest "violations of the constitution", thus placing themselves on the same side as the U.S. imperialists are on.

Current developments in Eastern Europe are a continuation and further development of the line laid down at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1956. That Congress marked the outright seizure of state power by the revisionist and social-democratic representatives of the bourgeoisie. But the bourgeoisie was interested in supporting the position of the new ruling group only to the extent that it satisfied their demand for the transformation of the collective economy into private capitalist economy. This transformation is not moving fast enough to satisfy the bourgeoisie so pressure is being put on them to speed things up and to bring into the state apparatus direct representatives of the bourgeoisie. It follows that protests, and demands for release of the jailed "martyrs" are measures in support of the bourgeoisie.

We have no intention of concentrating our efforts in support of one bourgeois faction contesting for con-



trol of the state apparatus against another faction, particularly when the one being supported is, (if there is any notable difference at all) more reactionary than the other.

As a result of the policies being pursued since 1956 many of the workers in Eastern Europe have lost their bearings and are being manipulated by one side or the other for their own purpose. It is not easy to rebuild a destroyed revolutionary leadership, especially under the conditions that prevail in Eastern Europe. But that this will take place we have no doubt. Mindful of their great revolutionary traditions the workers of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will recreate their revolutionary party and put an end to the depredations of the bourgeoisie for all time. We will welcome and support every revolutionary action of the working people, but we refuse to excite ourselves over the the cannibalistic proclivities of the bourgeoisie.



"Hampered by bureaucratic meddling, strangled by government controls and union wage demands, our net earnings have soared to a new high peak!"

## A LETTER FROM RAP BROWN

Parrish Prison  
New Orleans, La.  
February 21, 1968

Being a man is the continuing battle of one's life; one loses a bit of manhood with every stale compromise to the authority of any power in which one does not believe.

No slave should die a natural death. There is a point where caution ends and cowardice begins.

For every day I am imprisoned I will refuse both food and water. My hunger is for the liberation of my people. My thirst is for the ending of oppression.

I am a political prisoner, jailed for my beliefs — that black people must be free. The government has taken a position true to its fascist nature; those who cannot convert, they must silence. This government has become the enemy of mankind.

This car no longer alter our path to freedom. For our people, death has been the only known exit from slavery and oppression. We must open others.

Our will to live must no longer supersede our will to fight, for our fighting will determine if our race shall live. To desire freedom is not enough.

We must move from resistance to aggression, from revolt to revolution.

For every Orangeburg, there must be ten Detroit's. For every Max Stanford and Huey Newton, there must be ten dead racist cops. And for every black death, there must be Dien Bien Phu.

Brothers and Sisters, and all oppressed people, we must prepare ourselves both mentally and physically, for the major confrontation is yet to come. We must fight. It is the people who in the final analysis make and determine history, not leaders or systems. The law which govern us must be made by us.

May the deaths of '68 signal the beginning of the end of this country. I do what I must out of the love for my people. My will is to fight. Resistance is not enough: aggression is the order of the day.

### NOTE TO AMERICA:

If it takes my death to organize my people to revolt against you and to organize your jails to revolt against you, and to organize your troops to revolt against you, and to organize your children, your God, your poor, your country, and to organize mankind to rejoice in your destruction and ruin, then here is my life. BUT, MY SOUL BELONGS TO MY PEOPLE!

LASIME TUSHINDE MBILASHAKA! (Translated from Swahili:)

WE SHALL CONQUER  
WITHOUT A DOUBT





# P.L. ON WAGE PARITY

As this article which follows here is critical of one which was published in a Marxist-Leninist journal in the United States, publication was withheld until our Comrades across the border could be informed of its contents. The preliminary letter we have received from Comrade Linder on the matter is also printed at this time, and any additional comments received at a later date will also be published for the information of our readers.

In order to place this matter in proper perspective for those who may not have had the opportunity to see the original article by Walter Linder it should be pointed out it was a lengthy one (about six pages of P.W.) which dealt in detail with the recent auto strike in the United States. The piece we have quoted below constitutes the total reference to Canada, so it is but a very small part of an article which otherwise dealt with questions mainly of concern to workers in the United States, although it must be added that, in view of the particular situation which exists in our unions it is sometimes difficult to discern what is exclusive to one or the other.

However, the question of "wage parity," involving as it does the establishment of wages and working conditions for Canadian workers through negotiations between American monopolists and U.S. trade union bureaucrats, (on United States territory, incidentally), is closely allied with our struggle for an independent trade union movement in Canada and the fight for the independence of the nation. It is a question of principle and one over which we have long been at odds with the revisionist-dominated Communist Party of Canada.

Standards for Canadian workers must be set and fought for by Canadian workers themselves. This in no way rules out the vital need for unity and solidarity between the workers of both countries against the common enemy—but unity and solidarity based on the complete independence of both parties, and not imposed from the top, or by the workers of the one nation upon the workers of the other nation.

We must add that, in our view, the struggle for independence far transcends in importance any temporary gains that might be won in respect of living standards. Liberal Party hacks are presently touring the country telling the people that independence from the United States will cost them a 25 per cent decline in living standards. Our stand is for independence and national dignity, whatever the cost. The ultimate gain for our people will far outweigh any temporary loss or hardship. If the people of Vietnam can die for the freedom of their country surely we can stand a 25 per cent cut in living standards should it prove necessary.

Several months ago **Progressive Worker** considered it necessary to comment on the question of "wage parity" which had become a top priority item on the list of UAW demands in the United States. Our Comment was prompted by the fact that the last convention of the UAW had decided on this demand on behalf of the Canadian workers, followed by Reuther's lawyers going into the U.S. courts with a request for an order to compel General Motors to negotiate wage standards for Canadian workers. The revisionist leaders of the Communist Party of Canada hailed the idea of American bureaucrats negotiating with the U.S. monopolies

to set standards for Canadian workers as a great advance in "international solidarity" and the Trotskyist League for Socialist Action joined in the chorus of approval.

We contended that Canadian standards must be set by Canadian workers in Canada and based on Canadian conditions. Subsequent developments proved our position to be a correct one. Despite the fact workers in Canada won parity of wage rates a strike took place. The Strike was provoked by the U.S. owners insisting on enforcing Detroit working conditions in Canada. While speed-up is quite intense in Canada, workers have always managed here to resist the sweat-shop methods that had been forced on American auto workers under the Reuther regime. The strike in Canada was in opposition to enforcement of this "parity" of working conditions which the boss demanded and Reuther agreed to. "Parity", therefore, in the true sense of the word was not a demand of the workers in Canada, nor would they accept "parity" in that sense.

Also at issue was the reason stated in support of the resolution of parity at the convention and in the request for an order from the Supreme Court. This reason, as stated by Reuther and his cohorts, was to protect the jobs of American workers from being moved into Canada. In other words, "wage parity" according to the Reuther clique, meant that the U.S. owners would locate in the United States rather than Canada.

Strangely enough, (or is it so strange?) the American monopolies in Canada use the same argument when opposing wage demands of workers in Canada. Massey Harris-Ferguson, also negotiating with UAW, has presented a lengthy and definitive brief designed to "prove" that insistence on present wage demands will result in the company moving into the U.S. middle west.

We are returning to the question of "wage parity" at this time because Walter Linder, writing in the U.S. Marxist journal **PL**, has stated a position directly contrary to ours; one that is in full agreement with that of Reuther and the revisionists, in spite of his correct condemnation of these characters. Here is what Linder writes on the question of wage parity for Canadians in his article "Aftermath of the UAW Strike":

"... the demand for wage equality for Canadian Ford Workers was scrapped. This is particularly important since the free trade agreement of the U.S. and Canadian governments allows cars manufactured in one country to be transported to, and sold in the other country without any import-export duties. Since Canadian Ford employees earn about 55c per hour less than their U.S. brothers, when the latter get too "uppity" all the bosses have to do is lay off in the U.S. and hire — at the lower wage rates — in Canada, eventually shipping the cars for sale in the U.S. No clearer reason for international unity between the workers of the two countries is needed than the issue of wage parity. U.S. Ford workers to protect their own jobs, must fight for equal wages for their Canadian brothers."

Linder appears to be not at all concerned with the fact that the American monopolies may be exploiting Canadian workers even more intensely than they are exploiting U.S. workers. In common with Reuther he looks on lower wage rates in Canada as important only to the extent that they might constitute a threat to the



job security of U.S. workers. "International unity," according to his theory, consists of everyone standing together to the end that security of employment for American workers will be protected.

We hope that Comrade Linder will excuse us for saying that this looks like a classic example of Yankee arrogance. We are sure it will draw no loud harrahs from Canadian workers.

Out of his ignorance of the situation in the U.S. dominated auto industry in Canada Linder appears to have jumped to the conclusion that the Canadian auto workers are a potential source of an almost unlimited supply of scab labour to be used in the event of strikes in the U.S. But due to the particular "international" structure of both the industry and the union in Canada the shoe is very much on the other foot.

Canada does not really manufacture automobiles, we assemble them, and we are dependent on the U.S. for the supply of vital components. When there is a strike in auto in the U.S. plants, the plants in Canada as a rule close down in about two weeks. On the other hand, strikes in Canada affect the U.S. plants only in the amount of overtime the American workers put in supplying autos for the Canadian market. This is what happened in the Chrysler strike that occurred during the last round of negotiations.

The fundamental needs of Canadian auto workers cannot be reduced to a simple demand of "wage parity." Our fight is for an end to U.S. domination of our economy and for an independent Canadian union movement that will speak for Canadian workers. Linder would be advancing the cause of genuine international unity if he advised U.S. workers to support their class brothers in Canada in the demand for U.S. monopolists to get their sticky fingers out of Canada's economy and for U.S. union bureaucrats to get off the Canadian worker's back.

This is a matter which is becoming of increasing importance in a number of countries in addition to Canada. Reuther has already launched plans for a world-wide American union in the auto industry, to parallel American ownership. The initial steps have already been taken in approaching unions in Mexico, Australia, Britain, and probably other places. The same expressions of concern for the "welfare" of the workers hide the real intent of serving U.S. imperialists' interests. This conspiracy must be exposed and stopped. Linder would be applying his talent to better purpose if he used them to encourage U.S. workers to aid in the fight.

While our return to the subject of "parity" was prompted by Linder's comment it could bear repeating in any event since the struggle around the points raised is by no means over. We are also concerned with ensuring that U.S. readers of **Progressive Worker** are not misled into the belief that Linder's proposal enjoys any support in the Canadian left.

Progressive Worker,  
35 East Hastings St.,  
Vancouver 4, B.C. Canada.

March 8, 1968.

Dear Comrades:

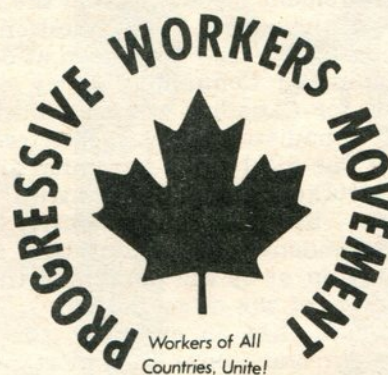
We have received your letter dated March 4 along with a copy of an article to appear in the **Progressive Worker**. We appreciate your comradely criticism of part of an article concerning the recent UAW settlement. We will discuss this criticism carefully among

our trade union comrades and we are sure that it will aid us in coming to a correct position on this question.

We still attempt to use as our guide the position stated by Comrade Milt Rosen in his letter to you of July 18, 1964 and subsequently printed in the **Marxist-Leninist Quarterly**, a pertinent section of which runs as follows:

"We recognize how our brothers in Canada suffer from the exploitation of U.S. imperialism. U.S. imperialism controls the bulk of the Canadian economy. U.S. labor fakers — agents of imperialism — control to a great extent Canadian unions. U.S. imperialism has converted Canada into a super-colony. Canadian workers will never be free as long as U.S. imperialism dominates the affairs of their country. Canadian workers and U.S. workers face the same enemy — U.S. imperialism. In many respects, therefore, our struggles can be joint ones. Whatever success Canadian workers have in smashing U.S. imperialism and their Canadian vassals is welcomed by U.S. workers. Whatever success U.S. workers have in smashing U.S. rulers can only aid the development of revolution in Canada."

Comradely greetings,  
Walter Linder  
For Progressive Labor



# TRADE UNION PROGRAM

35 East Hastings Street, Vancouver 4, B.C.



# SOVIET-CAPITALIST CO-OPERATION

A report from Helsinki, Finland, reveals the existence of a wide area of cooperation between the Soviet ruling clique on the one hand, and the Finnish and Norwegian capitalists on the other hand. The Saimaa Canal in Karelia, a 36-mile link between the Baltic Sea and the Saimaa Lake system — Europe's biggest — has been ceded to Finland on a 50-year lease. The lease covers the canal and a 30-yard strip on either side.

The waterway will be open in the 1968 season for passage of ships up to 1600 tons after having been closed for 24 years. Forest products will be carried from the heart of Finland to the Baltic and as far as Britain. Finland will control and operate the canal, and will have the right to charge dues to foreign ships.

For the past four years Finnish workers have commuted daily into the Soviet Union to carry out the reconstruction work on the waterway. The workers from Finland will continue to cross Soviet territory and, in fact, to occupy Soviet territory, in order to operate the locks and other facilities on the waterway. This is the first time in its history that the Soviet Union has agreed to surrender part of its territory for use by another state. Here we have indisputable evidence of capitalist enterprise — and foreign enterprise at that — on the soil of the Soviet Union. No doubt this capitalist exploitation is considered to be a practical demonstration of how peaceful co-existence works.

The new Soviet bourgeoisie have also entered into an agreement to hire 5,000 workers from the Finnish capitalists to work on jobs in the Soviet north. Finnish capitalists and Soviet revisionists both plan to make a substantial profit from the labour of these workers. Capitalist enterprises in Finland have already been engaged in the construction of Soviet power stations over the past number of years. Timber felled in Soviet Karelia is being floated into Finland along westward flowing rivers to supply Finnish merchants with the logs they need for their markets since timber is being depleted in most of the Scandinavian countries, including Finland. The "free enterprisers" in Finland are in this way permitted to exploit the forest resources of the Soviet Union and use a waterway based on Soviet territory as the facility to transport the harvest to other countries. Finnish workers are exploited and Finnish capitalists strengthened through the treachery of the Krushchovites.

The revisionist-controlled Communist Party of Finland also profits by the deal. Top Party leaders are given cabinet posts in the government which is dominated by the Social Democratic Party, one of the most reactionary parties in Europe. Finland's currency has been devalued resulting in a drastic decline in the already low living standards of the people, and Communist Party and Social Democratic bureaucrats join forces to prevent strikes and demonstrations. Communist Party leaders cooperate in every reactionary move made by the government.

The 3.5 million population of Leningrad constitutes an almost exclusive market for dairy products from Finland and there is talk of Lapland's dairy farmers securing Murmansk as a market for their produce.

Agreements have been entered into with Norway for development of enterprises in the same general area. Most of the cooperation to date has been on the construction of hydro-electric projects. One Norwegian power project is situated one-and-one-half miles inside Soviet territory. Other commercial contracts affecting exploitation of the rich natural resources and power potential in the area are in the making. The Soviet Union has also opened a tourist village near Murmansk to be used by Finnish and Norwegian tourists who are permitted to travel freely in the area, without a visa.

It can be seen that the Soviet ruling clique have gone far in facilitating the exploitation of Soviet resources by foreign capitalists; but this is only a small fraction of the total area which they plan to exploit in cooperation with foreign firms. Much more extensive is the projected multi-billion dollar scheme for the exploitation of the vast Siberian territory. 23



jointly with Japanese financiers.

The capitalist transformation of the Soviet economy is clearly gaining momentum and the Krushchovites are expanding their contacts with western imperialists — including the U.S. imperialists — for the purpose of sharing in the exploitation of workers at home and abroad. However there are obvious signs that class conflict is becoming sharper and that strikes are becoming a more common occurrence. These struggles are certain to grow and intensify until the final overthrow of the revisionist renegades.

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## APPEAL TO READERS

With this issue we mark the 54th edition of **Progressive Worker**. When we first initiated our paper we were confident of the need for it and of its ultimate success. We also foresaw the tremendous time, effort and expense required to ensure its continuation. It is the latter that prompts us to make this appeal for funds.

Over the past few years we have made several appeals and the response has been very good. Our last appeal was over two years ago due to the fact that our policy has been to campaign for money and support for the **South Vietnam National Liberation Front**.

In our February 1968 issue we instituted the **Canadian Worker** section of the paper. As well as appearing as part of the **Progressive Worker** we also run extra copies to hand out at union meetings and on the street. Anyone wishing extra copies to pass around, please drop us a line telling us of your needs. This new section of course places another burden on our already overtaxed budget. It is with this in mind that we appeal to you, our readers and supporters.



# POEMS

by Rewi Alley

## Slap in the Face

Bitterly, how bitterly  
have Vietnamese gone  
through their long night  
of agony; then suddenly  
fire crackers of Tet  
changed to the rattle  
of machine guns and  
triumphant shouts  
of youth, so that  
ramshackle government  
which has a master, but  
no people, was exposed  
for what it really was  
cold steel chasing away  
dollar dreams, with  
a swift slap in the face  
for the master himself  
in all his bloated arrogance.  
Careless

of life itself, rifles  
gripped tightly, grenades  
swinging from hips,  
the people's fighters storm  
enemy defences; fighters  
from the ranks of humble  
village folk, serving  
their kind, dying for them.

Laugh it off, boss,  
if you can, but the slap still  
stings, and no longer may you  
sleep in peace  
in Vietnam.

Tsunghua, Kwangtung, Feb. 9, 1968

## U.S. POLITICIAN

by REWI ALLEY

Words so fine  
face so benign

who would have thought  
he could be bought

power loving  
profit grubbing

he fools them once  
he fools them thrice

untrue at heart  
sycophant

stench of decay  
around him today

history has an outsize garbage can  
suitable for just this kind of man.

Peitaiho  
July 25th, 1967.

## Storm in Vietnam

Spring hurricane  
hits South Vietnam,  
ripping, tearing at  
bases for aggression.

until at last

a way is found

and the people

seize arms, and fighting  
with new technique  
throw themselves against  
entrenched aggression  
with panther like ferocity.

up in the highlands

they close in on enemy

outposts; in coastal cities

they hold suburbs, take

factories, build barricades

assault citadels; cutting

through air base defences

smashing aircraft one

rending explosion following

on another, so that

through the myriad hills

up ten thousand streams

reverberations echo

voicing the rising anger

of a suffering people,

that warm, lovely folk hacked at,

slaughtered so dirtily

and for so long by dollar

hirelings who now feel

the breath of the people's fighters

hot on their necks.

Tsunghua, Kwangung, Feb.9

## Unemployed

By Rewi Alley

Empty houses  
borrowed trousers

children crying  
bosses lying

cars stream past  
deadingly fast

sustenance they give  
to help us to live

bitter gall  
that's all

land rich  
why bitch

something wrong  
get along  
baby, get along . . . .

a world to take  
yours to make

Fight?  
Right!

Peitaiho, July 21st, 1967.