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INSTITUTION

CRISIS HITS TRADE UNIONS

EDITORIAL

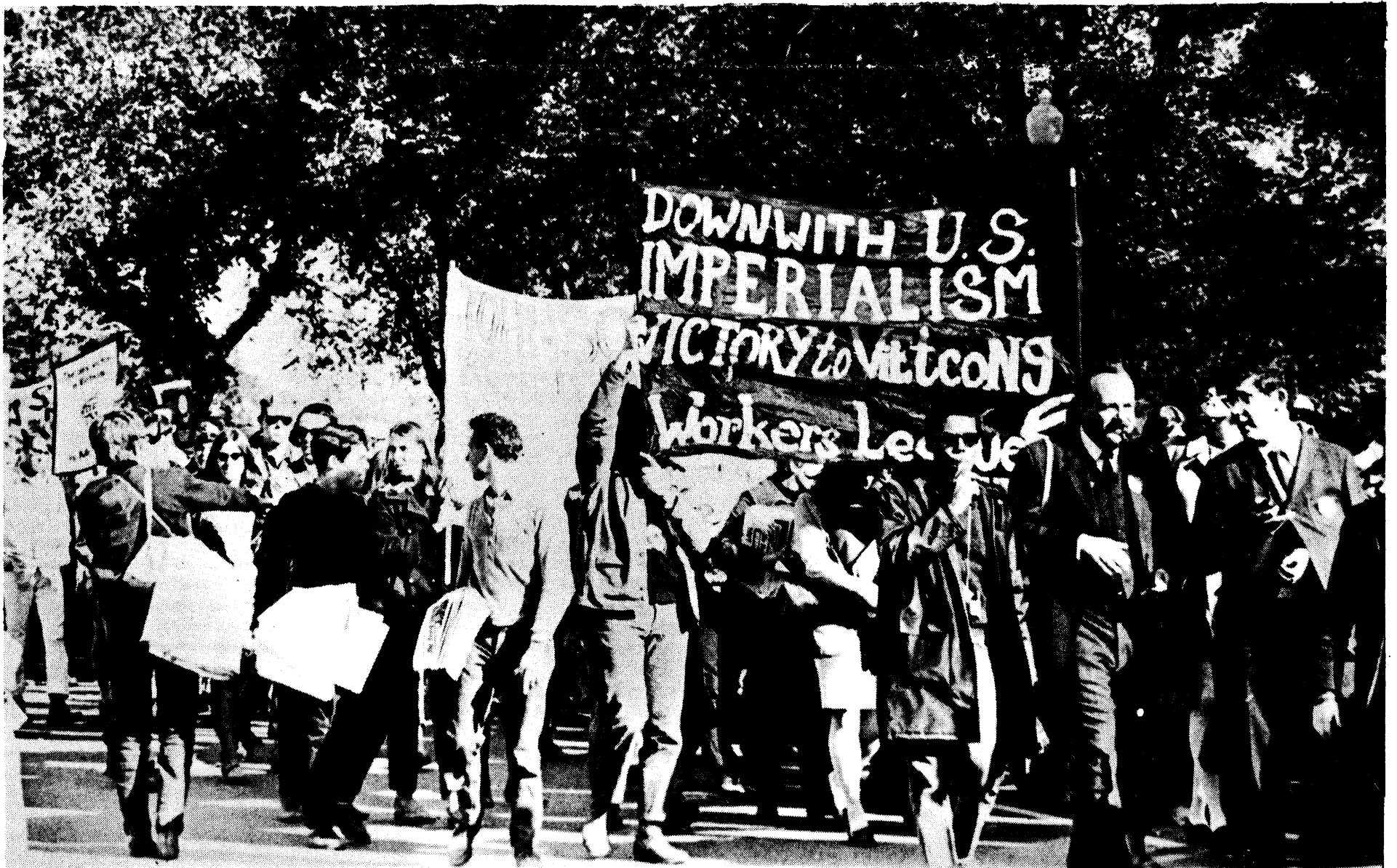
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UAW

NMU

SSEU



ONLY THE WORKERS LEAGUE OFFERED ANY POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE, ANY CLASS OUTLOOK DURING WASHINGTON DEMONSTRATION.

WASHINGTON: NO LEADERSHIP, NO DIRECTION, NO PURPOSE--NOTHING

guevara's death: the lessons.....

.....***san francisco celebrates october***

EDITORIAL

Start Fight For Labor Party Now!

The American trade union movement is in crisis. There is no escaping it. It is felt in every union. In this issue we look at the way this crisis affects a number of key unions in a number of different kinds of industries--auto, hospitals, direct mail, social service, maritime.

Each industry has its own problems, but basically it is all one problem. The crisis in the unions is caused by the failure of the union bureaucracies to have any program whatsoever for coping with the crisis of the system as a whole, the crisis of the economy, the crisis of capitalism.

The bosses have a program; the bosses have a solution. They plan to stay on top and keep the profits rolling in by making the workers pay for it. They plan to beat, beat, beat back the workers. Speed up the lines; wipe out jobs with automation; hold down wage increases while prices soar, whittle away at the power of the unions in the shops.

But more, more is being prepared for the future. We saw their hand in the railroad strike. We got a glimpse of their plans for the future of American labor. Congress passed a special law forbidding railroad workers to strike and then appointed a board to enforce their settlement, the bosses settlement on the workers. Railroad workers today; all workers tomorrow. The bosses are out to bust the unions, to break the unions, to smash the unions.

So far the unions are only fighting a defensive battle and not doing anything too well at that. The bosses strike a blow and the unions gingerly hold up a hand seeking to fend it off. The UAW strikes Ford and what do they get? Less speed up? No, more! A buck an hour raise for skilled workers? No, a pittance! a stronger escalator clause? No, a weaker one! Parity for Canadian workers? Nothing! Nothing! A shorter work week? Are you kidding?

Nothing can be gained from defensive battles. The best defense is an offense. We must answer blow for blow. The power of the bosses is great but the power of the workers is greater. This power can only be realized when the working class unites to fight politically. We must do more than fend off the bosses' blows on a shop level. We must battle to take the government away from the bosses.

That's right. It's the government we want and nothing less will change things. Why should we allow the hundred or so men to make the decisions in this country, the men who control the top corporations, who run the government? We know what they plan to do with that government of theirs. The railroad strike made that clear enough. To the extent that the workers show their seriousness by fighting back through the unions the bosses plan to counterattack through the government. So let's take the government from them. Then let's see who wins.

There is only one way to do this. The trade unions must build their own party, a party they control, a party to represent the workers, those who sweat for a living, not the bosses. This labor party can then take the government away from the bosses and begin the battle to change things in this country. We demand better working conditions, a shorter work week, jobs for all and a decent standard of living. The bosses will answer that they cannot afford to give all this to us and maintain the profitability of their firms. All right, we say, with a labor party we have an answer. We will take over the government and nationalize these industries under workers control. We will run the great factories of this country so they serve the interests of those who work in them, not the interests of the coupon clippers.

We have got to start this fight right now. The demand for a labor party has got to be raised in every union in this country, in the course of every strike, every battle.

We'll tell you one thing. Walter Reuther is not going to build that party. Joseph Curran is not going to build that party. We have got to build that party. The rank and file trade unionists have got to fight for it. The union bureaucracy gets fat because it aids the bosses by holding down the struggles of the workers. The man who cannot shorten the work week by one minute, lessen the speed of the line by one second, give one penny to Canadian workers, or even defend the existing escalator clause, is not going to build a political alternative to the bosses. Neither is the man who boasts that he's never led a strike. Neither is the man who begs for crumbs from Congress, wrapping himself in the flag to do it while the bulk of U.S. shipping flies foreign flags to avoid American working standards.

We have got to do it as part of the battle against the Reuthers, against the Meanys, against the Currans, a battle for a new militant leadership in the unions under the control of the rank and file and serving their interests and their interests alone.

LESSONS OF DEFEAT

BY Lucy St. John

NEW YORK--The defeat suffered by the SSEU in its seven week strike this summer and the lessons of this defeat have become even clearer in the light of the recent teachers strike. City workers have been dealt severe blows. The SSEU was totally defeated and the UFT with its very effective strike was unable to win any serious gains for the teachers. City labor is paralyzed. City workers have no control over the conditions under which they work; gains have been rolled back.

Control and power over wages and working conditions lies in the hands of the capitalist class whose interest it is to preserve profits and provide the cheapest public services. Power and control over the workers lies in the hands of the capitalist politicians in New York, Albany, and Washington. Lindsay, Rockefeller, Travia and Johnson are intent upon taking back every gain workers have made in the past. The Lindsay Administration along with state and federal governments are facing a financial crisis for which they alone are responsible, and which they can only solve by a sharp attack on the wages, working conditions, and trade unions.

DETERIORATING

Today welfare workers face rapidly deteriorating conditions. We still have not seen the pay increase negotiated almost a year ago. At the same time this increase has almost been depleted by inflation. The welfare rolls have doubled with no significant increase in the number of workers. Understaffing has never been so acute. Caseloads have risen to over 100 in some centers. The gain of the 60 caseload won in the '65 strike and in the '67 contract is completely violated. The City in its defeat of the SSEU won a 90 day waiver of the 60 caseload. Even after the 90 days are long gone, workers will face almost double the amount of work with no alleviation in sight. Intake sections are overcrowded. This results in hopeless confusion leading to ever more frequent assaults on staff members. Lower paid workers are being introduced into the Department to take over the job of the caseworker.

The political attack on our working conditions is accomplished through such measures as the Affidavit, Human Resources Administration, state takeover of welfare programs, the Taylor law, and the Office of Collective Bargaining. Every one of these is designed to increase the productivity of a rapidly diminishing work force, to cutback on services, and to erode the power of the trade unions.

POWERLESS

In the face of this, the SSEU is powerless. It is clear that the seven week strike waged by a militant SSEU membership was not sufficient to defend the workers against the City's onslaught. Today conditions are worse than in 1964 prior to the victorious January 1965 strike. All gains

N.Y. Welfare Workers Are Powerless Without Labour Party

have been rolled back. Not even the UFT strike which shut down the entire New York City school system was able to defend its workers against the tough, anti-labor Lindsay Administration. The Transit workers will face the same music in January.

It is clear that while economic struggles - strikes - are necessary to prevent even greater defeats, the workers must go beyond these struggles to a fight on the political level. The nature of the attack on city workers is political. The capitalist class through its representatives, the Democratic and Republican parties, are launching this attack in the legislatures. City workers as well as the entire working class, will not take one step forward towards improving their wages and working conditions until they wrest power from the capitalist politicians and parties and replace these hacks with representatives of the working class and a labor party.

DC 37

It is within the context of the struggle to create a labor party that SSEU members must take up the fight to enter District Council 37. At present the SSEU is totally isolated from the rest of the labor movement. This has contributed to its powerlessness in the past. However, entry into DC37 alone will not solve the problems facing welfare workers. SSEU members must link entry into 37 with the demand for the labor party. Only this program - the fight for the labor party - a program of workers control under which we set our wages and working conditions - will take the workers forward.

While the Mage leadership has an awareness of the need to affiliate with the labor movement, it is content to hold onto the independent SSEU until it can work out a merger in which their precious jobs

are preserved. A large section of the SSEU's executive board is fighting to maintain the SSEU as an independent union to further various factions opportunist plans for taking the jobs now held by the current bureaucracy. The Mage leadership as well as an overwhelmingly large section of the executive board is incapable of formulating a program for entry into the District Council which would make such a merger the basis for any improvement in the conditions of the Department of Welfare. Neither the Mage leadership, the would be bureaucrats, nor the District Council bureaucracy under Gotbaum can wage the struggle for the labor party. The bureaucracy's precious jobs are dependent on maintaining present relationships with the employer and the capitalist politicians. The fight for a labor party can only proceed through a struggle against the Mages and the Gotbaums.

LEADING

SSEU members have played a leading role in working class struggles in the past. Within the District Council, they can play the same role in the fight for a labor party.

SSEU members must begin the fight for the labor party with the understanding that this is the one and only road that leads forward. We must fight for entry into the DC with this program to reach workers in the rest of the labor movement. Only this struggle can turn back the bitter defeats.

These are the lessons for all city workers and the entire working class. Until the working class takes the reins of political power into its hands, there will be no victories, only defeats. American workers cannot take one step forward without the fight for a labor party. We call upon all SSEU members and all city workers to take the first step towards building this party.

TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS, YOUNG WORKERS AND BLACK MILITANTS:

Join With Us To Hammer Out Action Program To Combat

crisis facing unions today

FIGHT FOR LABOR PARTY NOW!

**sunday december 3rd 8 pm
room 7, 243 east 10th street nyc**

AUSPICES: TRADE UNIONISTS FOR LABOR PARTY

SAME OLD REUTHER

BOSSES ON TOP WITH NEW FORD PACT

by Dan Fried

Undaunted by rumblings of discontent and dissatisfaction with the proposed new contract on the part of Ford workers, United Automobile Workers President, Walter Reuther went on Detroit TV to 'sell' the settlement to Michigan auto workers. Reuther's opinion of the contract was best expressed by his earlier statement that it was 'the most substantial contract ever to be negotiated in any corporation in the industrial field in the United States'. The main point of Reuther's hour long speech was to convince the militants in the skilled workers section of the union that they would be foolish if they rejected the contract. Over half of the skilled workers showed that they didn't give a damn about Reuther's name calling and thinly veiled accusation of sowing disunity when they voted to reject the contract.

They had demanded \$ 1 an hour for each year of the contract in order to achieve parity with building trades workers doing the same jobs.

Mr. Reuther's main argument was that they had squeezed all they could out of Ford and prolonging the strike would gain nothing. But Malcolm Denise, a Ford V.P. and the company's chief negotiator didn't seem very squeezed when he termed the settlement 'a realistic one'. Denise has repeatedly made it clear that neither Ford nor the administration is upset by this contract. Whatever the costs of the contract, the Ford company is confident that it can absorb these costs through various concessions

granted by the union.

ESCALATOR

In addition to the concession on parity for skilled workers, the concession that the ranks of the union were most unhappy about involved a weakening of the cost of living 'escalator' clause. The company complained that the workers had begun to take the escalator clause for granted. These are, of course, the increases which are pegged to rises in the U.S. consumer price index. Since the 1964 contract, inflation has eaten away at the standard of living of auto as well as most other workers in the U.S. Recent figures show that this trend is continuing unabated. It's going to get even harder to make ends meet in the next three years. Yet, instead of demanding an increase in the percentage of the allowance for price rises, Reuther allowed Ford to put a ceiling of 8 cents an hour per year on the cost of living allowance. And that's only for the second and third years of the contract. The first year, Ford workers will get not a single penny more under the 'new' escalator clause regardless of how much prices go up. Even if Ford workers get the full 8 cents an hour in the next two years, they will still fall short of what they got under the old contract for the last three years. It's getting even clearer what Mr. Denise means by 'realistic'.

On the issue of wage parity for Canadian workers the Reuther leadership backed down completely, leaving the employees at Canadian Ford high and dry. The pretext for this double-cross (Reuther

had pledged a struggle for Canadian parity at last April's UAW special convention) was that only 80% of Canadian Ford is owned by the Ford Motor company and that therefore the union could not press its demand. Does this mean that Ford has no control over the wages paid Canadian employees? If Reuther implies this, how come he didn't discover this fact until the settlement was announced?

BLOW

This is not only a blow against the Canadian working class, but weakens the American auto workers as well. It is little different from the practice of undermining the conditions of the UAW by sub-contracting work out to non-union shops or to union shops which pay less for the same work.

Wherever he could get away with it, Reuther gave ground on issues that affect the union on a day to day local level. At the special convention Reuther had also pledged to strengthen union restrictions on sub-contracting. Empty words. In the contract he did the exact opposite, explicitly giving up the right to strike over 'excessive' sub-contracting. This means that disputes over sub-contracting will be referred to the interminable grievance machinery. Meanwhile the company continues to farm out work to scab shops, confident in the knowledge that the UAW won't strike anyway.

The 'lines of demarcation' issue was handled in the same way by Reuther even though at the special convention delegates complained that the companies were shifting men who are supposed to be skill-

ed tradesmen from one job to another at will, thereby breaking down or ignoring the 'lines of demarcation' between the trades. The militants among the skilled tradesmen demand an enforcement of these lines but Reuther in the present contract simply allows Ford to proceed with business as usual on this practice.

Even though the contract has been ratified on the national level, as we go to press Ford has still not rolled a single car off the assembly line. This is because local disputes are keeping over half of the assembly plants closed and many other manufacturing plants. The workers are fighting back in the only way they know how at present. What the union gave up nationally, they are trying to retrieve locally. Many local disputes involve the issues of sub-contracting and lines of demarcation. Another issue being fought on the local level which the Reutherites capitulated on in the contract is the demand for equalization of overtime. Some locals are asking for penalties against the company whenever it does not distribute overtime equally.

PROGRESS

The workers try to fight Ford's control on the 'local level' but no real progress can be made in these isolated

struggles until there is a national leadership, which, unlike Reuther, is prepared to really challenge the power of the Big Three by a serious fight for the 30 hour week, for 30 year retirement, an escalator clause with 'teeth', and for control by stewards over subcontracting, demarcation, speedup and other issues of conditions and safety. But this program must bettie to the demand for nationalization of the auto companies, putting them under the control of the workers themselves. The shorter work week must be pressed for politically with the UAW taking up this demand not just for the auto workers but for the entire American working class.

Only a party that represents the trade union rank and file can be serious about such demands. If the UAW is stuck with the Democratic party, it is also going to be stuck with a continuation of phony contracts, erosion of working conditions (increasing unemployment) and a continuing inability to make ends meet as prices soar as a result of the imperialist war in Vietnam. That is the alternative program provided by Reuther and the Democrats and LBJ. The ranks of the UAW need more than matchsticks to fight the Big Three. They need their own party; a labor party.

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'65 Leaders' Support of Democrats Aids Bosses

by Irv Hacker & Sue Holman
NEW YORK--District 65 is considered by many trade unionists to be a maverick union, one whose leadership has consistently been in the forefront of liberal trade unionism. It is true that 65 did participate in the freedom rides, in collecting food for homeless share croppers in the South and the union does have a functioning peace committee. But this union, regardless of its public face, is a union in crisis.

The basic problems in the Direct Mail division of 65 hold true on the whole for all of the union. The leadership has ignored these problems until they have reached such proportions that they may destroy the union. By basic problems we refer to the unorganized workers within the Direct Mail industry and the increased use of automated equipment which further reduces 65 membership within the industry.

Traditionally, at the time of new contract negotiations the employers counter the union's description of the abject poverty of its members by indicating that they (the bosses) are aware of and sympathetic to the problems of their workers, but that as long as they are forced to remain competitive with non-union shops which comprise the majority

of the industry, nothing can be done. The employers in essence tell the union that which it should know - that in order to defend the prior gains of its membership (and make advances) it is imperative that 65 organize the unorganized.

PROMISES

Every two years at contract time the union promises its membership that it will gird its loins and have a sweeping organization drive. Nothing meaningful is ever achieved however. But in 65 there exists a class for all new applicants which is a precondition for union membership. This class is not used as an attempt to educate workers in the history of the trade union movement. No attempt is made to instruct these new trade unionists in the bloody struggles that built unions within this country. Nor is there any attempt in these classes to familiarize these fresh elements with the problems currently existing in 65. There is no attempt to take the enthusiasm of the new members and couple it with the experience of the militant rank and file in a reorganizing campaign.

The organization of the unorganized will reduce the number of shops going out of business due to the competition with the unorganized shops. The union must also

make a real demand during the contract bargaining period of opening the employers' books to see just what the rate of profit really is for those who plead poverty. While it is true that there are marginal (usually small) employers who are almost always in trouble financially, there are also the large and successful shops. There is no question that the rate of return for the employers as a whole is a very healthy one, regardless of non-union competition.

AUTOMATION

Automation is another factor which erodes jobs. Of course we must favor the introduction of automated equipment which ends such labor as hand inserting or collating. The direct mail worker of the future will be a skilled machine operator and must be paid accordingly. We must fight to see that those replaced by new equipment are trained at company expense to run the new machines with no one fired. More important, the only answer to the spread of automation in direct mail as well as other industries is the battle for a shorter work week. To the extent that the industry as a whole is organized the union will have more power to fight for a reduction in hours worked. But this is also a political question. The problem of automation and un-

employment plagues almost every industry in the country. We must fight for legislation enforcing a 30 hour week at 40 hours pay with double time for overtime. But such a political fight requires something different than the Democratic party, the favorite of the 65 leadership.

LABOR

Just as the union leadership is not concerned with the condition of the union membership, other than in the protection of their own positions, the politics of the leadership is that of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party as part of which they view themselves. It is a correct view, as they are an integral part of the party machinery. When Livingston and his fellow officers involve themselves in an anti-war campaign by a Fulbright or a Kennedy it is because such a campaign will remain middle class in orientation and no more than a protest by the loyal opposition.

It is from the rank and file that a change must be forthcoming. It is the rank and file that must see and expose the cynical approach which underlies the leadership's line. For instance at the October General Council

meeting when the leadership 'peace report' contained the demand that the money which is being poured into the destruction and horror that is Vietnam be rechanneled into constructive use here at home - such as in the ghettos, etc. A lovely sounding demand, but the leadership of District 65 has been around for a long time and they know that the money going to Vietnam has been around too (it didn't just

spring full-blown from the ground) and that somehow neither the 'bosses' Republican Party, nor their 'own' peoples' Democratic Party has ever seen fit to use that money to make this country a decent place for all Americans to live in, AND THEY NEVER WILL! It's not 'profitable'!

The working people in this country need a labor party, based on working people and trade unions which will carry out policies necessary and favorable to working people. It is criminal to see union leaders, supposedly progressives, urge their members to deal with a Democratic Party whose policies range from war to anti-strike legislation. The men who make-up and run the Democratic Party are bosses themselves, not workers. We should be working toward the building of a labor party for ourselves!

Wash. P

by Tim Wohlforth

WASHINGTON-- They came 100,000 strong from campuses across the nation to 'do something' about the war in Vietnam.. They stood there for hours doing nothing. People peddled posters of Guevara (he did something); various radical papers were sold; speakers with nothing to say droned on and on at the speakers platform; the nauseatingly sweet smell of pot floated through the air; some fell asleep.

Then the action began. The 100,000 slowly drifted across a bridge over the Potomac to 'confront' the warmakers at the Pentagon. Helicopters hovered above and park police greeted the marchers in Virginia. Around the Pentagon stood a new barbed wire fence hastily constructed the day before. Every few feet stood an MP with rifle ready for action. In front of the Pentagon several thousand MP's and federal marshalls stood in a solid line with gas masks on and armed to the teeth. Along the roof of the Pentagon soldiers stood ready to shoot. Some 10,000 additional paratroopers were reported close at hand. Earlier in the day demonstrators had seen army trucks of soldiers at key points throughout the Capitol area.

BEATEN

Then the leaders of the march announced that 'those who wished to' could proceed to confront this armed might in any way their 'conscience' directed them to. So on marched the hippies, the pacifists, many students. They were dragged away, beaten, tear gas was used; those who found a back way into the Pentagon had their skulls bashed and some of them were sent to the hospital. It was amazing no one was killed. No leadership; no direction; no purpose; nothing accomplished.

Such is the state of the peace movement in the United States today. And it is not only the Washington demonstration. The same thing happened in Oakland earlier in the week with bloodier results. Several campuses have been hit by similar demonstrations--most notably Brooklyn College and Oberlin College.

For three years now the peace movement has engaged in large scale actions. For three years there has been no political direction. For three years every effort has been made by the leadership of the peace movement to confine the movement to the middle classes. For three years now the John-



ONLY THE WORKERS LEAGUE AND YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE RAISED THE DEMAND FOR A LABOR PARTY NOW.



WORKERS LEAGUE SUPPORTERS CHANT 'VICTORY TO VIETCONG' WHILE OTHERS MOAN 'PEEEAAACE NOW'



WITH BANNERS FLYING IN WIND WL SUPPORTERS START MARCH



SUPPORTERS OF YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE JOIN DEMONSTRATION.

Protest Goes Nowhere

son administration has answered each demonstration with a further escalation of the war. This time, right on schedule, the Washington demonstration is followed by new bombings of Hanoi.

FRUSTRATION

No wonder the frustration of the middle class college youth, the retreat into hippyism and pot, the turn toward romantic revolutionism in other countries symbolized by Guevara rather than a serious struggle here; and finally frustrating individual anarchistic 'defiance' of the troops and police which leads only to bloodletting of the protesters.

We say that the leadership of the peace movement must be blamed for every head cracked, every drop of blood spilled. Specifically it's the SWP and the CP which must bear the major responsibility for these are the organizations in a position to give leadership to the struggle against the war in Vietnam. They did not and therefore they prepared the way for the anarchism and pacifism which now dominates the militant section of the peace movement.

The Militant of course hails this demonstration, as they did the April 15th one as a step forward. The latest issue refers to it as "dramatic testimony to the continued growth and militancy of the of the antiwar movement." But the stark truth is that each of the Militant's "steps forward" has in actuality been a step backward a step away from the real arena of struggle against the war.

OBSCURER

These revisionist groups obscure the real issues in Vietnam and avoid the real struggle against the Vietnamese war. This is because they refuse to understand anything in class terms. The Vietnam war is nothing more than the extension of the policies of America's real rulers, the large corporations, into the world arena. It is not a matter of Johnson the man, but capitalism the system. The capitalists fight in Vietnam in order to preserve their exploitation of the workers and peasants not only in Vietnam but the world over. The workers and peasants of Vietnam fight back pitting their lives against the American colossus because they have had it with exploitation, and poverty, and oppression. They are fighting for their own liberation and that means in

today's world they are fighting for socialism.

But these revisionist groups say nothing of this. They march and march and march. Some even peddle Guevara posters, the man who talked of other Vietnams in Latin America. But not one of these not a single solitary political group in the United States outside of the Workers League is willing to really take sides in the struggle, to fight the fight against the Vietnam war in a class way. The Workers League and only the Workers League marched in Washington under the banner VICTORY FOR THE VIETCONG.

CLASS

But that's only part of the story--an important part and we are proud of our role in it. No other organization in the United States deserves the title revolutionary on this ground alone. The fight has got to be fought in a class way within this country as well. Only the capitalist class, only the corporation heads, gain from this war of foreign oppression. Only the working class, only those who live by their sweat and then are asked to die for their oppressors, can lead a meaningful struggle against this war.

Certainly the student can help: they can help a hell of a lot. Certainly support from the middle classes is needed. But the key, the real key to the struggle, must be the struggle of the American workers. There's is the only power outside the power of the bosses that can change anything in this society.

The workers are struggling in the United States. They are struggling everywhere. Only the revisionists do not see the struggle. The bosses see clearly and they are frightened. The black workers rose in the ghettos this summer in violent battle and yes, their white brothers joined in, too, in Detroit. Strike after strike has hit industry after industry.

But, the revisionists will be quick to tell us, they are not fighting against the Vietnam War, at least not in large numbers. And who is to blame for this, we ask? No doubt the revisionists will blame the workers. They always do, for everything. We say the blame belongs on the peace movement. Who has battled to take the issue of Vietnam to the factories? Who has tried going to working class youth in the high school and vocational schools, the

unemployment centers and explaining the war in class terms, relating the war issue to the other struggles of the American workers?

FRED

Certainly not our revisionist friends. They parade to the Pentagon along a totally deserted route under the banner "Better Fred Than Dead". But they cannot hide the truth that Fred is dead--dead as a revisionist interested in reaching the American worker.

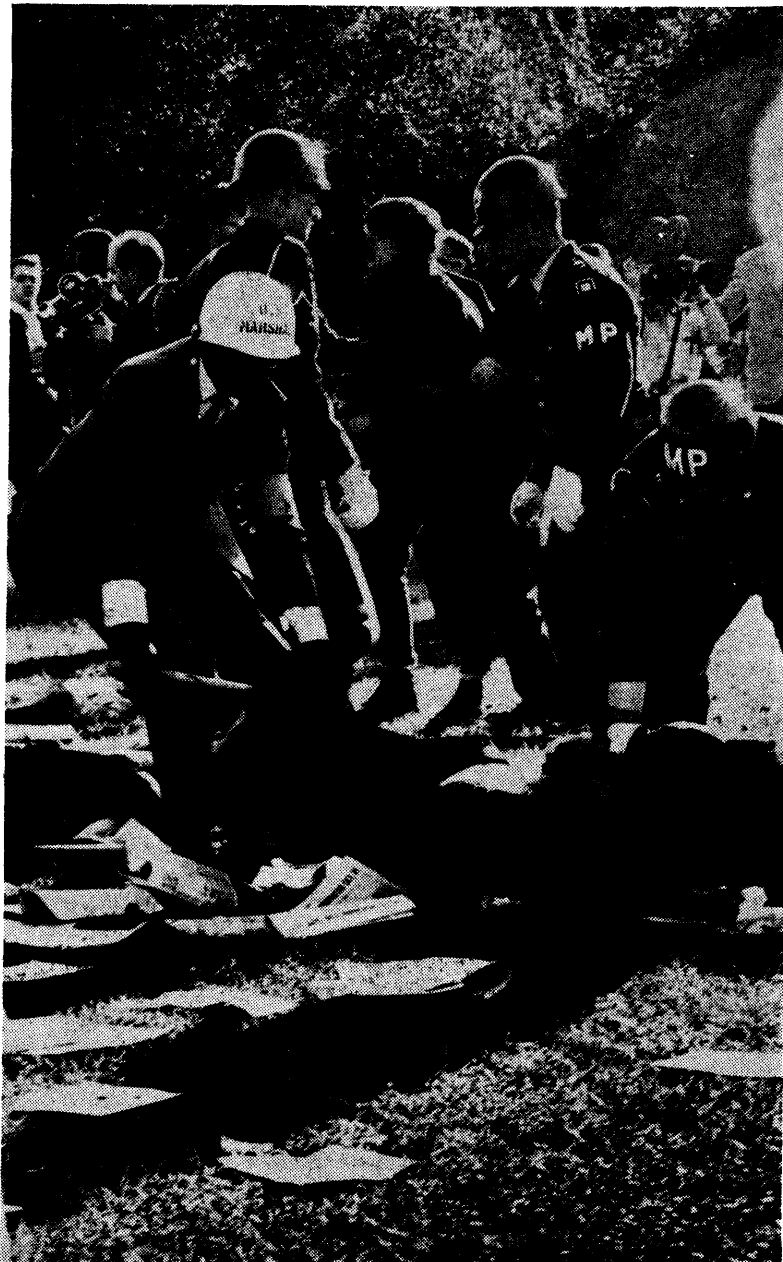
The token black nationalists present means less than nothing. Never has there been a peace march with a smaller representation of Negroes. And the Negroes there distributed leaflets only to other Negroes. The leaflets urged Negroes not to march with whites but to retire in a nearby park far from the black workers in struggle and far from the Vietnam demonstration. Everywhere black nationalism divides the working class, turns Negroes away from class, socialist policies, leads to the isolation of the black nationalists themselves who find they cannot build anything as they have no program. Black nationalism exists today solely because of its ability to gain support from guilty white liberals and their revisionist allies. Its relation to the working class movement is totally parasitic, that of the parasitic intent on the suicidal course of killing its host.

in high schools and employment centers and to the working class in the shops and factories. We were the only real alternative at Washington. We are the only real alternative in the United States. JOIN THE WORKERS LEAGUE AND JOIN THE BATTLE FOR VICTORY FOR VICTORY FOR THE VIETCONG--JOIN THE WORKERS LEAGUE AND JOIN THE STRUGGLE FOR A LABOR PARTY NOW!

The battle against the war in Vietnam is a battle for a political alternative to the war makers. Nothing else has any meaning at all. And the only class capable of building a political alternative to the war makers is the working class. This is why the key to the struggle against war is the battle to build an American Labor Party. Only the Workers League marched under such a banner. Only the Workers League battles to take the question of war to the working-class youth



YOUNG WORKER SALESMEN WERE EVERYWHERE



MPS CLUB DEFENSELESS DEMONSTRATORS



WITH MASKS ON AND RIFLES READY SOLDIERS PREPARE TO USE TEAR GAS



THIS FENCE WAS THROWN UP DAY BEFORE.

Wash. Protest Goes Now

by Tim Wohlforth
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FRUSTRATION

No wonder the frustration of the middle class college youth, the retreat into hippyism and pot, the turn toward romantic revolutionism in other countries symbolized by Guevara rather than a serious struggle here; and finally frustrating individual anarchistic 'defiance' of the troops and police which leads only to bloodletting of the protesters.

We say that the leadership of the peace movement must be blamed for every head cracked, every drop of blood spilled. Specifically it's the SWP and the CP which must bear the major responsibility for these are the organizations in a position to give leadership to the struggle against the war in Vietnam. They did not and therefore they prepared the way for the anarchism and pacifism which now dominates the militant section of the peace movement.

The Militant of course hails this demonstration, as they did the April 15th one as a step forward. The latest issue refers to it as "dramatic testimony to the continued growth and militancy of the of the antiwar movement." But the stark truth is that each of the Militant's "steps forward" has in actuality been a step backward a step away from the real arena of struggle against the war.

OBSCURE

These revisionist groups obscure the real issues in Vietnam and avoid the real struggle against the Vietnamese war. This is because they refuse to understand anything in class terms. The Vietnam war is nothing more than the extension of the policies of America's real rulers, the large corporations, into the world arena. It is not a matter of Johnson the man, but capitalism the system. The capitalists fight in Vietnam in order to preserve their exploitation of the workers and peasants not only in Vietnam but the world over. The workers and peasants of Vietnam fight back pitting their lives against the American colossus because they have had it with exploitation, and poverty, and oppression. They are fighting for their own liberation and that means in

today's world they are fighting for socialism..

But these revisionist groups say nothing of this. They march and march and march. Some even peddle Guevara posters, the man who talked of other Vietnams in Latin America. But not one of these not a single solitary political group in the United States outside of the Workers League is willing to really take sides in the struggle, to fight the fight against the Vietnam war in a class way. The Workers League and only the Workers League marched in Washington under the banner VICTORY FOR THE VIETCONG.

CLASS

But that's only part of the story--an important part and we are proud of our role in it. No other organization in the United States deserves the title revolutionary on this ground alone. The fight has got to be fought in a class way within this country as well. Only the capitalist class, only the corporation heads, gain from this war of foreign oppression. Only the working class, only those who live by their sweat and then are asked to die for their oppressors, can lead a meaningful struggle against this war.

Certainly the student can help: they can help a hell of a lot. Certainly support from the middle classes is needed. But the key, the real key to the struggle, must be the struggle of the American workers. There's is the only power outside the power of the bosses that can change anything in this society.

The workers are struggling in the United States. They are struggling everywhere. Only the revisionists do not see the struggle. The bosses see clearly and they are frightened. The black workers rose in the ghettos this summer in violent battle and yes, their white brothers joined in, too, in Detroit. Strike after strike has hit industry after industry.

But, the revisionists will be quick to tell us, they are not fighting against the Vietnam War, at least not in large numbers. And who is to blame for this, we ask? No doubt the revisionists will blame the workers. They always do, for everything. We say the blame belongs on the peace movement. Who has battled to take the issue of Vietnam to the factories? Who has tried going to working class youth in the high school and vocational schools, the



...S LEAGUE RAISED THE DEMAND FOR A LABOR PARTY NOW.



...Y TO VIETCONG' WHILE OTHERS MOAN 'PEEEAAAGE NOW'



...ART MARCH



SUPPORTERS OF YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE JOIN DEMONSTRATION.



WITH MASKS ON AND RIFLES READY SOLDIERS

NMU: Curran Plays Ball with Shipping Bosses

a letter

Dear Editor:

I just read your article on the N.M.U. and Joe Curran. I found much in it I can endorse on the basis of having worked on N.M.U. contract ships with an outsiders classification meaning I had to obtain three month permits by paying thirty dollars for each permit issued. More on that below. What I would like to tell you is that your article falls far short of describing the real situation and that you sacrifice the important issues ostensibly to concentrate on those having to do with bread and butter.

Here it is. Curran feels impotent to attack the existing establishment for the way in which the maritime industry is presently oriented, namely to serve the needs of the military-industrial complex and those corporations in the international market of economic conquest. Can't fight them; he figures join them! To fight them he would have to insist on trade policies taking in all world markets, including markets which emphasize peaceful development of the world as a whole and in which no one society or country calls the turn on any others. But, obviously this sort of policy would be to the disadvantage of the capitalist west which is forced to rig the exchange of its goods at the expense of many countries, especially the underdeveloped countries



SEAMEN GATHER IN MODERN NMU HIRING HALL TO APPLY FOR JOBS ON SHRINKING AMERICAN FLAG FLEET. producing raw materials for the advanced nations.

CAGE

Curran is trapped whether he likes the cage he's in or not! He has to write continually in the 'Pilot' how he wants an improved position for his membership aboard newer and better ships that will be 'to the best interests of the U.S. in the fulfillment of its overseas commitments'

Curran knows that if he was to call his men and women out because of the over four million deadweight tons of ships owned in the United States but sailed under foreign registry, he would have to be engaged in the class struggle along traditional lines of the have's versus the have nots. He is more vulnerable to attack on that score because though the Pilot makes unending mention of the rotten facts of econo-

mic life that is where it rests.

It would be more meaningful to attack Curran and the rotten palace guard that surrounds him if you could publish arguments that show their betrayal of the rank and file stems from that initial unwillingness to engage the enemy where the enemy runs rampant through the lines and literally gets away with murder. The fact that Curran and company surrendered their union prerogatives to the 'national interest' and all that the sordid unwritten law of proscriptions entails must not be overlooked as in your article.

Even in what I have read out of the Call, I have noted the same failing to describe reality as is. To be sure, the Call is exposed to charges of whatever the cabal chooses to level against them. But since the editor of the Call

gets his head and legs broken for his efforts, what does he have to lose by not calling the facts as they are? Anybody that couldn't care less about the U.S. maritime industry or its workers already has their supreme satisfaction.

TURKS

While in Istanbul recently, I was told by Turks...in respectful tones that the Russians sail over 50 ships a day through the Bosphorus and that is only the beginning! See how vulnerable Curran and company are when all they can prattle about to their so called friends in Congress is that the U.S. owes it all to its dreams and ambitions not to allow the Russians to achieve supremacy on the high seas even though those lackeys also know that their friends truly could

not care less because the big bomb is here to settle all disparities and inequities kind of like a super North Vietnam which will be knocked over at the 'appropriate time' so why worry about how built up it becomes for now!

Along side of that sellout in the making, the fourteen dollars a day a deck man gets is no issue at all, and take that from me because that's just about what I was getting and compared to what is written on these pages it was a fabulous sum indeed, no matter what carpenters, plumbers and others in the union get by comparison! It's the fact that he could be fighting for peace and humankind that makes Curran a putz and a bastard who thinks that salvation is pie in the sky!

A Working Seaman

HOSPITAL WORKERS FACE CRISIS

By a Hospital Worker
NEW YORK-In the last ten years over 20,000 hospital workers in the metropolitan area have been organized in Local 1199 of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Workers Union (RWDSU). Union organization has made little headway in many other industries, but the voluntary (private, non-profit) hospital field has changed tremendously. Ten years ago almost none of these hospitals were organized. Now a majority of them are.

But hospital workers remain among the most exploited and the most poorly paid in the working class. Wages used to average about \$40 a week, but ten years later most hospital workers still earn only \$70 or \$80 a week, and take home much less than that. The great majority of hospital workers still earn less than the minimum amount the federal government itself says is required for the average family. Poverty is still the rule for hospital workers.

Many unorganized hospitals have so far been able to mislead their workers and keep out the union. It has not been hard for them to keep pace with the wage raises won at union hospitals. The union must achieve a breakthrough both in economic gains and in organization in the next year, and these two goals are very closely connected.

In previous struggles, including strikes in 1959, 1962, and 1966, a militant rank and

file refused to tolerate the old conditions and achieved union organization and, in the 1966 contract, some substantial economic gains.

CHANGES

But times are changing. In the last few years, reflecting the deepening crisis of American capitalism, the bosses, on a nationwide scale, have shown a definite stiffening in response to union economic demands. The hospital bosses don't need to show a profit, but the crisis of the system requires that they keep labor costs to a minimum. For the workers the results are the same.

The whole health care system in the U.S. is in crisis. Hospitals especially are confronted with skyrocketing costs, with labor costs constituting only a small part. The hospital situation is a perfect example of the way in which the decaying capitalist system treats the working class. Billions and billions are spent for armaments and war, hundreds of thousands just to kill one heroic Viet Cong fighter, but next to nothing is spent for health and other services required by workers in the U.S.

All layers of the population are affected by the hospital crisis, but the poorest sections of the working class feel it the most. Medicare and Medicaid are attempts to patch up the growing problem, a band-aid to stop the cancer of capitalist bankruptcy. Except in New York State, those under 65 are just

as vulnerable as they ever were to astronomical hospital bills. In New York the restricted Medicaid program is already under severe attack because of its tremendous cost to the capitalists and their government. At the bottom of the rotting system, the municipal hospitals in New York City and elsewhere are well known as hellholes for the most exploited and downtrodden workers.

Hospital workers can't ignore the crisis of the industry they work in. We are often accused of lacking dedication to the sick and helpless. We must reject every one of the hypocritical charges leveled by administrators and doctors who have never lifted a bedpan in their lives, but who blame the workers for the existing conditions. The workers do not seek to make the present rotting system work just a little bit better by overworking themselves. We are already overworked enough. We must expose the system, not accept it.

SOCIALIZED

Socialized medicine is the only answer to the present health and medical care crisis. Medicare is just a drop in the bucket. The municipal and state hospitals as they are now run represent the opposite of what we need, because they are deliberately starved for money and equipment. We must demand, instead of the present system of private and public decay, that billions be poured into

construction of new hospitals, modernization of existing ones and decent salaries for all hospital workers. The hospitals should be run by the workers themselves and not by bureaucrats on \$30,000 a year salaries.

We cannot postpone fighting for improved wages and improved working conditions even for a minute, but we must also answer the hospital bosses' pleas of poverty with the demand for socialized medicine. Local 1199 should initiate a campaign to organize all workers behind this demand.

The fight for socialized medicine, something which has been achieved by the workers in the majority of the industrial nations, must be combined with an all-out political struggle. Reliance upon so-called friends like New York's Governor Rockefeller or Mayor Lindsay is a completely bankrupt and backward policy. Five years ago Rockefeller chose to maneuver between the workers and the hospitals and offered the union some concessions. We can be sure that he had his own reasons for this move. Now Rockefeller has to think about a costly Medicaid program. He has to keep hospital costs down, and hospital workers shouldn't count on anything but opposition from him.

What about Lindsay? Is this strikebreaker, this declared enemy of the teachers, welfare workers and transit workers, still our friend, as he supposedly was when 1199

President Leon Davis urged a vote for him two years ago? Has his administration proved him to be a "friend of labor"? Of course not!

UNITY

The weapons of a few years ago are no longer enough to even get by on. Labor unity and a program of political struggle are necessary. This is the lesson of the welfare workers, defeated by the Lindsay administration last summer, and the teachers, who were unable to change school conditions after a solid three week strike this fall. These workers were unable to achieve their aims because they were divided from other sections of the labor movement and the entire working class. The hospital workers in Local 1199 are not government employees, but we work for non-profit institutions and face the same basic problems these workers and all workers face.

The hospital workers and all other workers will not be able to get anything more than a stalemate without a political struggle. The capriciousness and the workers must respond to this crisis. The only weapon that will effectively unite the welfare workers, teachers, transit workers, garment workers and all others is an independent labor party, a party which could fight for real gains in wages and working conditions and for all the demands of the working class. 1199 must begin now to fight for independent labor candidates in the 1968 elections.

A HUGE SUCCESS

S.F. Celebrates October

SAN FRANCISCO-- Fifty years after the October Revolution the ideas that inspired this revolution found new life here in a commemoration meeting organized by the newly formed San Francisco branch of the Workers League and the Young Workers League. Some 60 people attended the meeting and close to 100 participated at one point or another in the evening's activities.

Hanging from the beams of the old loft were nine revolutionary banners, the result of hundreds of hours of work of League members. LONG LIVE THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL; BUILD FOR NEW OCTOBERS; BUILD A LABOR PARTY NOW; NATIONALIZE BASIC INDUSTRIES; VICTORY FOR THE CONG, DEFEND THE RED GUARDS; BUILD FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH were just some of the slogans. Behind the meeting area was the dance area decorated with streamers and lighted by ultra-violet cold

lights so that the dancers glowed as they danced to the latest in rock. It was a meeting to learn the lessons of the great October Revolution. It was a party to celebrate the victory of the world working class, the first triumphal workers state. It was above all the beginning of a new chapter in the struggles of the working class of San Francisco, a working class with a rich tradition of battle, an understanding of the power of the class as an organized body.

The very composition of the audience reflected all this. Few in the audience represented the old radical circles, isolated, demoralized, middle class in composition and political outlook. Everywhere in the hall were people new to politics, older trade unionists, young workers, Negroes, youth from the high schools and from the college campuses.

The main address of the evening was given by Tim Wohlforth, National Secretary of the Workers League. He

spoke of the lessons of the October Revolution for today.

WIN

The October Revolution showed that the working class can win, it can govern. But the working class can only win if led by a conscious party. It is this lesson above all others that every revisionist swine seeks to cover up, to chip away at, to deny in their actual political practice.

But consciousness is understood even less. A conscious party is a party which represents the future of the class in its present, which links the goal of a socialist society with the current struggles of the class and in this manner builds the revolutionary party. Today, Comrade Wohlforth concluded, this means to battle for a labor party, to begin the struggle to bring the American working class to an awareness of the necessity to take up the political struggle, the struggle for its own power, to begin the battle to wrest power from the capitalists just the way the Rus-



TIM WOHLFORTH ADDRESSES SAN FRANCISCO MEETING

sian workers did 50 years ago.

PROUD

The members of the new San Francisco Workers League branch can be justly proud of this meeting. They battled and battled hard to build it. No, not in the old way, the way of the revisionist groups, not the easy way. Leaflets for this meeting were taken to people who never saw a socialist leaflet--to trade unionists, to working class high schools. The meeting was built, the hall was de-

corated, and the meeting run with a seriousness found nowhere else.

But this work has barely begun. The San Francisco local has just begun to address itself to the real struggle to bring the battle for a labor party into the living struggles of the class. It also showed the tremendous task that lies ahead. Only those who address themselves to this task are revolutionaries. The Workers League is the only revolutionary organization in the United States.

by Neil Martin

As revolutionaries, we mourn the loss of Che Guevara-- an uncompromising, absolutely dedicated and courageous fighter against imperialism. We lament his death, but we see in the manner of his death a lesson to be learned about the method of his struggle.

In the United States, the Socialist Workers Party poses as the biggest supporter and admirer of Guevara. Their newspaper, the Militant devoted almost half of a recent issue to eulogizing him, but did not even raise the question of what lessons could be drawn from his death. This party which is supposed to be based on the revolutionary theory of Marxism simply expresses confidence that the world struggle for socialism will automatically overcome this "grievous blow" and achieve victory. Confidence in the struggle for socialism, the revolutionary optimism of Marxism which flows from a conscious struggle to build a vanguard party is a great achievement. But the confidence expressed by the SWP is nothing more than the lightminded sentimentalism of the middle class radical who has the philistine's disdain for theory.

To the SWP Castro has always been above reproach, beyond criticism. They have elevated him to the status of a virtual god. Needless to say, their numerous eulogies of Guevara do not contain a serious assessment of the political differences between Castro and Guevara. But how can we even begin to understand Guevara's death and the defeat of the Bolivian guerrilla movement without looking at these differences and the political circumstances under which Guevara left Cuba?

It is well known that there were differences within the Cuban leadership. It is well known that these differences were most sharp between Guevara and the Moscow oriented Stalinists led by Rodriguez. These differences were not only over Cuban economic development---'socialist' versus 'capitalist' production incentives---but also reflected Guevara's sympathy for the Chinese revolution and Mao-Tse-Tung and his hostility toward the Kremlin gang. Castro never saw fit to bring this discussion into the Cuban Communist Party, which had been organized from above by the Castro oligarchy. In this suppression of discussion, Castro had already established precedents. Didn't Castro 'purge' Escalante and his supporters without at any time allowing them to state or argue their differences before the Cuban working class or the so-called Marxist-Leninist party? Is it not true that Castro denied the right of the Posadas tendency (a break-off from the Trotskyist movement) to publish a printed paper in Cuba and harrassed and jailed its leaders? Is it not true that Guevara enunciated a more radical line during his trip to Africa and solidarized himself with China; and upon his return to Cuba not a word was heard of him until Castro's speech revealing that he had left the country? Is it not true that shortly thereafter Castro denounced the Chinese for distributing their literature attacking Moscow re-

Che's Death: The Lessons

visionism in Cuba and following this up with an attack on China for reducing trade with Cuba?

These are questions which cannot be brushed aside by Castro and his clique in the SWP. The fact that they have never been raised in the Cuban 'Leninist' party gives the lie to the SWP contention that this is any sort of Marxist party. Rather than expose the nature of this party and the Castro leadership, the SWP goes out of its way to cover up for Castro. Every twist and turn to the right is either ignored or 'excused'--from Castro's statement that De Gaulle's imperialist politics are a model of reasonableness to be followed by all the imperialists to his slanderous denunciation of Trotskyism at the first Tri-Continental Congress, to his implication of support to Johnson against Goldwater in the "Playboy Interview."

Guevara died at the hands of a bloody imperialist satrap, Barrientos, whose government in Bolivia is presently condemning to death political prisoners in jungle extermination camps. The government's military forces apparently were able to track down and isolate the guerrillas under the command of Guevara. One of the world's foremost authorities on guerrilla warfare was killed while 'practicing his trade'. This should certainly raise some questions about the correctness of the Castroite concept, shared by Guevara, of guerrilla struggle.

This concept, adopted at the recently concluded OLAS Conference in Havana stresses the role of the committed individual revolutionist who with others of his kind will form mobile guerrilla armies based in the countryside. These armies will engage the enemy troops, exhaust and defeat them without involving the working class. There is no need in this schema for a revolutionary party based on the science of Marxism which brings the consciousness of political struggle to the masses and gains its strength from the international working class.



CHE GUEVARA: WAS HIS DEATH NECESSARY?

Many American radicals have seized on the radical empiricism of Castro's and Che's 'anti-theory' outlook to fortify their own native American pragmatism. Where this anti-theoretical outlook leads is revealed in its most grotesque and absurdly nearsighted form in the following excerpt from the October issue of Ramparts magazine:

"Bolivia was the country chosen by Che for his dramatic reentry into the Latin American revolution. The time and place were chosen with deadly precision. Che's presence was the detonator for the explosive political conjuncture in Bolivia. It signalled the new continental offensive against the U.S. in Latin America."

This "new continental offensive" detonated by Che's presence is now, by the same logic reduced to impotence, if we are to assume that the nerve center of this offensive was Guevara and his guerrilla army. Guevara is dead, Debray imprisoned and the movement scattered to the four winds.

But the tin miners, the most powerful and revolutionary force in Bolivia remain. The Barrientos regime disposed of Guevara and the guerrillas with much fanfare but with relative ease. Yet the miners are still the only force which can spearhead the Bolivian revolution.

For more than fifteen years, these miners have been in the vanguard of the revolution, posing the possibility of the working class taking power in Bolivia. In 1952-53, the tin mines, which accounted for most of Bolivia's wealth, were nationalized under pressure of the armed miners. But the nationalist leaders of the miners refused to take the obvious next step of political power, the creation of a workers state. From that time until the Barrientos coup in 1964 there was a see-saw battle between the ruling class and the armed workers.

The Barrientos regime which came to power with the support of the treacherous miner's leader, Juan Lechin, was able to push back the large measure of control the workers had gained in the mines and to partially disarm the miners. But the class consciousness and combativity of the miners has not been destroyed. The workers are 'down' but definitely not 'out'. What is required is the leadership of a revolutionary party which will not compromise the struggle as did Lechin and the others. The approach of Guevara, the Castroite concept of organizing guerrilla bands in the countryside and jungles, completely ignores this most fundamental task of the Bolivian revolution-- the construction of the revolutionary Marxist party.

The false confidence the SWP expresses for the victory of the Latin American revolution is a smokescreen for their own betrayal and adulation of Castro. The Workers League on the other hand is confident that the program of revolutionary Marxism will be fought for and brought to the workers of all the Americas, north and south, and that parties of the Fourth International will be built.

CANADIAN BULLETIN

NEWS ON LABOR AND THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN CANADA

TORONTO--As the recent Ontario election showed the working class is becoming more aware of the need to fight politically. As more court injunctions and anti-union laws are being used to break up strikes the need is seen to identify with the NDP, Canada's semi-labor party. In spite of this party's turn to win middle class votes at the expense of a working class program, as was made so glaringly obvious at their last convention, the working class see it as their party (i.e. labor's representation in par-

New Democratic Youth Need Socialist Program

liament.) Workers are demanding equal pay and equal working conditions with their brothers in the United States; this is the big question facing workers in Canada today. This fight is political as is the fight for parity of Quebec workers with workers in the rest of Canada. The recent strikes such as the Montreal Transit strike, the radiologists strike, and the strike in Peterborough, showed the increasing intervention of the state as a strike breaker, making working class political action all the more necessary. Workers in the Trade Unions should demand that the NDP take up this fight in Parliament in a more forceful way than has been done in the past, and also that the NDP be controlled by the trade unions.

The history of the NDP will show what its class composition is. At its very inception it was a coalition between radicals grouped in the old CCF and labor bureaucrats, giving the party two faces. One face being that of a working class party, and the other of some sort of middle class radicalism. A fight has to be carried out inside this party for trade union control, alongside a fight for

a revolutionary program.

YOUTH

One of the important sections of the NDP which is capable of organizing this fight is the New Democratic Youth. Although at the present time this youth organization is nothing more than a token group and a jumping off



DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST LEGISLATION.

stage for young ambitious bureaucrats. Nevertheless a fight must be waged in this organization to turn it outwards to working class youth.

Young people in Canada are faced with a dim future with higher and higher percentage of school dropouts and increasing alienation of youth from the rest of society. These youth have nothing to do in their leisure

time but walk the streets in gangs, getting pushed about by cops, and being victimized in the courts. They are faced with the prospect of dead-end jobs at \$1.25-\$1.35 an hour working in some demoralizing situation such as a grocery clerk, or message boy, if they are lucky. The

rest of the working class through the experience of the NDP. Only the Fourth International can provide the alternative leadership to perform this task.

There is no organization capable of bringing youth through this experience other than the Workers League. The self-styled Trotskyist group, the League for Socialist Action, with their belief that "the scene of action" is in the middle class, pacifist anti-war movement, show themselves incapable of leading any fight on behalf of working class youth. Only the Workers League can provide the alternative to the present NDP leadership.

Because the Workers League carries on in the tradition of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky in the fight for Marxist theory it therefore has learned from the past experiences of the working class movement. Because of this it is forewarned of who the friends of labor are, and those who the working class must rely on to provide the necessary leadership to resolve the contradiction of modern society by the victory of the working class.

not so fortunate ones get pushed into sweat shops working on a piece rate system. These youth can, must, and will be organized. The NDY must take up these issues faced by working class youth. The NDY must be built into a mass working class youth organization with deep class roots which is determined to organize campaigns for a better deal for youth.

CONTROL

Once organized youth can fight for a working class program, and working class control of the party apparatus. Only in this way can a real revolutionary socialist party dedicated to achieving power for the working class be built. It is necessary to take youth and the

FORWARD TO A MASS WORKING CLASS NDY!
EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK-END DEAD END JOBS!
FREE HIGHER EDUCATION TO ALL YOUTH!
TRADE UNION CONTROL OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS!
JOIN NDY -- FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM!

Make the NDP Fight for Labor!

by Robert Hartley

TORONTO--The gains of the New Democratic Party in the Ontario elections made that party a major force in the provincial parliament. Going to the election with only eight members of the legislature they are now a force of twenty members. In the process the NDP doubled their share of the popular vote. This was in spite of the conservative NDP leadership which did everything in their power, to no avail, to win the middle class voter.

It was the working class that voted for the NDP in spite of that party's middle class turn. By identifying themselves with the NDP, the

working class was seeing the need to take the level of their struggles beyond the trade unions and to fight politically.

It should be made clear that when the working class voted for the NDP they were voting for an end to anti-trade union injunctions, an end to the rising cost of living, and for parity with their American brothers, as was the case in Ottawa, and Windsor where the auto workers voted solidly to elect the NDP candidates.

The NDP members of the Provincial Parliament must be forced to fight on these issues. These MP's must be made to understand they are the voice of labor in parliament. A struggle must be waged inside

the NDP to change that party from its middle class direction, for a turn toward the working class. Youth are key to this struggle. Only the NDP by turning outwards to working class youth can provide an alternative to the present leadership.

We as the Canadian supporters of the International Committee of the Fourth International welcome the NDP's electoral gains as a decisive break by the working class from the two capitalist parties. But we also see the need for a fight to provide an alternative leadership to the present bureaucracy which controls the NDP.

Lessons of Montreal Transit Strike

by Ellen Maronge

The Montreal Transit workers strike went down to defeat. Despite a fine example of trade union militancy and

consciousness the workers were unable to overcome the political power of the state. This was because the workers were organized on an economic level and were not prepared to carry out what was in actuality a political strike in a political manner.

When Quebec's anti-labor Union Nationaliste government decided to put an end to the strike with a new anti-labor law specifying heavy penalties for the striking transit workers the strike was doomed. There was no political opposition.

The NDP is very weak in Quebec, and there is no unified political voice for labor. The Montreal transit workers are affiliated with the CNTU which stands for splitting Canadian labor from its ties with the American trade union movement. As if this weren't divisive enough, labor leaders

in Quebec are preparing to launch, so they say, a party based in labor separated from the NDP. Working class socialists should be for the unity of the working class, but not so the revisionist League for Socialist Action who echo the divisive call of Quebec's labor bureaucrats!

Strikes will continue to go down to defeat as long as the working class is left divided and without a unified political voice. Such is the lesson of the Montreal transit workers strike.

It is a tribute to the 6,000 striking workers that their strike lasted as it did, under pressure of the government not to disrupt the capitalist EXPO 67. Turn a defeat into victory - fight for an all Canada labor party under control of the working class, and with a program to lead the working class to victory!

LSA Plays Games in NDP

by Charles Henry

TORONTO -- Again the League for Socialist Action shows its opportunist face to the working class, by Ross Dowson making a relatively unimportant issue of the NDP refusing to stand against Conservative leader Robert Stanfield in a federal by-election in Nova Scotia, into a great matter of principle, 'Labor vs. Capital'. Even though workers are faced with increasing use of state injunctions to break strikes, and severe attacks on their standard of living, Dowson, the LSA (Pabloite) Executive Secretary, chooses to make some big democratic issue out of Stanfield's unopposed entry into Parliament. Rather than making a fight for the NDP to oppose the rising cost of living and increasing use of court injunctions, Dowson prefers to stoop to cheap publicity stunts, the like of which even surpasses the SWP Halstead-Boutelle Presidential Campaign.

Workers Vanguard, the League for Socialist Action's newspaper, claimed that the issue of the campaign was 'Labor vs. Capital'. What unadulterated liars these people are! Having claimed this was the issue, Dowson withdraws, when an individual who resigned his membership in

the NDP filed to run against Stanfield. Dowson's withdrawal shows that the issue wasn't at all 'Labor vs. Capital' but some abstract principle of bourgeois democracy! Please be honest Dowson, are you a working class socialist or a bourgeois democrat?

Of course this is the same sort of method as the League for Socialist Action carries out in its other areas of work. By declaring that 'the scene of action' is in the anti-war movement, and by their actions in relationship to the NDP they show themselves having no conception of building roots in the working class whatsoever. The Pabloite supported Socialist Caucus in the NDP by fighting on abstract socialist principles and not linking these principles to concrete struggles of the working class, make themselves merely an adjunct onto the bureaucratic NDP leadership.

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