

## Central America: Hot Spot in the Cold War



NACLA

January 22, 1980: 200,000 take to the streets of San Salvador. The bloody aftermath: junta sharpshooters murder 21, wound 120.

### **U.S. Hands Off El Salvador! Defend Cuba, USSR! Military Victory to Left-Wing Insurgents!**

The Reagan administration has thrown its El Salvador offensive into high gear. Its real targets are immediately clear: Washington is challenging the Soviet Union and Cuba to a showdown in Central America. In this anti-Soviet crusade, Yankee imperialism has pointed a gun at the head of Sandinista Nicaragua, demanding it cut off aid to Sal-

vadoran left-wing rebels. The U.S.' West European allies have been read the order of the day; they will be expected to stand at attention, whatever their yearnings for "détente." And the Pentagon is already funneling greatly increased military hardware and "advisers" to prop up the murderous junta in San Salvador. In the name of "stopping Communist expansionism," Ronald Reagan's Cold War bloodbath has begun in Central America.

The orchestrated campaign led off with closed-door Senate testimony by Secretary of State General Alexander Haig, following which Foreign Relations Committee chairman Senator Charles Percy blustered that the U.S. would not stand idly by while "outside forces--outside our hemisphere or within

(continued on page 6)

# Mamonova on Tour for Counterrevolution

## SCO Hails Anti-Soviet "Sister"

Feted by the U.S. Congressional Women's Caucus, sponsored by the Ford Foundation and whirled around the States by Ms. magazine, exiled anti-Soviet "feminist dissident" and Women and Russia editor Tatyana Mamonova has come to Canada.



Manro Galligan

**Feminist Mamonova supports enslavement of Afghan women.**

With credentials like these, even some left-wing feminists have given her a frosty reception.

So we were plenty disgusted, if not too surprised, to learn that among the central organizers of Mamonova's tour are former ostensible Trotskyists Jackie Larkin and Varda Burstyn, two voluntary "exiles" from the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL). In keeping with its policy of courting pro-Western Soviet dissidents, the RWL itself has endorsed the tour, at least in Vancouver. But most egregious in its unblushing support is the Socialist Challenge Organization (SCO).

The SCO has adopted as its own Mamonova's thoroughly counterrevolutionary (and occasionally crackpot) political program, complete with a reference to the "Soviet phallogratic (!!) bureaucracy"

(Socialist Challenge, March 1981). Where Mamonova looks to the creation of a "feminist" auxiliary to imperialist-sponsored counterrevolution in the USSR--calling for an "International Feminist Union which would bring about control over totalitarian regimes"--the SCO follows suit, pledging to "struggle for the development of feminism on a world scale, and for greater East-West unity of feminists."

Imitation may well be the sincerest form of flattery. But if the SCO sees in Mamonova the perfect model of feminist unity, she in turn looks for inspiration to such figures as "Margaret Thatcher... Indira Gandhi, Sirimavo Bandaranaike" (Women and Russia)! It doesn't take much to imagine the kind of "active help to the women of Eastern Europe" that would be forthcoming from this viciously anti-working-class crew.

The SCO boasts that it has initiated a petition to Leonid Brezhnev and Chief Prosecutor Rudenko demanding the "unrestrained distribution" of Women and Russia, with its blasts of confused obscurantism, feminist mysticism and all-sided contempt for Soviet society. But the initiative is hardly theirs. The U.S. Congressional Women's Caucus has also taken up this cause--at Mamonova's request. Meanwhile Mamonova is campaigning to get the United Nations to demand that she and her reactionary religious friends be allowed to publish their pro-Western propaganda in the USSR.

That neither the SCO nor Mamonova care at all for the liberation of the masses of women is clear in their attitude to Afghanistan. The SCO "anti-phallograts" who decry the "barbaric repression against feminists" within the Soviet Union side with Mamonova--exiled as a result of her treasonous

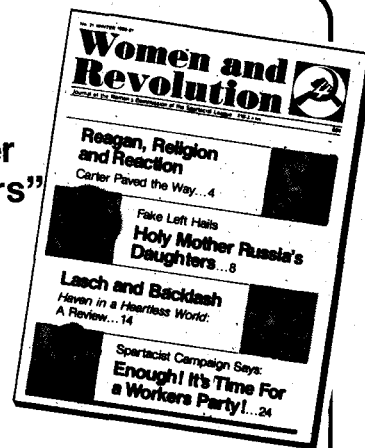
(continued on page 11)

### Women and Revolution

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# For Workers Revolution in Central America!

March 10 saw the biggest demonstration against Yankee imperialism since the Vietnam War as U.S. president Ronald Reagan began a two-day visit to Ottawa. About 1,000 protesters marched in front of the U.S. consulate in Toronto demanding "No U.S. Intervention in El Salvador." The spirited Trotskyist League (TL) contingent pointed the way forward for the workers and oppressed masses of El Salvador and placed the struggle in its global context with the slogans: "Military Victory to Left-Wing Insurgents!" "Smash the Junta! Workers to Power!" and "Defend Cuba! Defend Russia! U.S. Hands Off El Salvador!" The TL's placards and chants stood in sharp contrast to the Canadian nationalism and pacifism that were the intended themes of the demonstration ("Mr. Reagan, Don't Go to War!" "Sign SALT II").

The March 10 demonstration followed on the heels of a February 28 national day of protest against U.S. intervention in El Salvador. At the Toronto march, organized by the Committee of Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, a cowardly (and unsuccessful) attempt was made to exclude the TL. The organizers, determined to ensure the liberal character of the march, and seeking to insulate those in attendance from our revolutionary politics, first insisted that we take down our placards and then announced that those with their own signs (i. e., the TL) could march at the back. The Stalinists of the CP and the virulently anti-Soviet Workers Communist Party (WCP) then linked arms with the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) in an unholy alliance to try to seal off the TL contingent. Their clumsy attempts to split the march flopped, however, and the TL was able to maintain its 20-strong contingent as part of the main body of the demonstration.

The WCP's newspaper the Forge (6 March) reported that "The only sour note in this successful mobilization was the behavior of the Trotskyist



TL contingent, Toronto February 28.

SC Photo

League, which openly denounced the Salvadoran FDR." Of course the WCP, along with the CP, the RWL and In Struggle! all uncritically support the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) strategy of trying to pressure U.S. imperialism to negotiate a settlement in El Salvador based on its guarantee to contain the struggle within the bounds of capitalism. And in Canada they are all prepared to try and pressure "our own" bourgeoisie to pressure Reagan: "Hey, Trudeau, what do you say? Support the FDR today!" Support for class collaboration has never been a problem for the WCP which has consistently supported China's alliance with U.S. imperialism. As for the RWL, now that the question of the defense of the Cuban Revolution is decisively posed by Reagan's war-mongering over El Salvador, Castro's fan club is conspicuously silent.

At the February 28 demonstration in Vancouver sections of the crowd picked up the TL chant: "Smash the Junta! Workers to Power!" after the TL had rejected a "request" by the march organizers to take down placards "against the FDR." Here the pseudo-Trotskyists of the RWL outdid even some of the liberals in pacifism, leading chants like: "No guns, no war, U.S. out of El Salvador."

The TL will continue to defend its right to put forward its program for victory for the workers and peasants in El Salvador. For Workers Revolution in Central America! ■

## Vancouver TL Forum

Defend Russia! Defend Cuba!  
Military Victory to El Salvador Leftists!

Thursday, March 26, 7:30 pm.

Vancouver, UBC, SUB, room tba

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## Smash the Secret Police!

# Reformists vs. the RCMP

In Canada, where bourgeois politics provide little excitement, revelations of "dirty tricks" by the RCMP and other police security forces have captured the usually limited public imagination. A long chronicle of RCMP crimes against the left, labor and Quebec nationalist movements have come to light over the past few years. "Mounties" and others have been called to testify before government commissions which aim to polish the force's tarnished "scarlet and gold" image. RCMP Chief Superintendent Donald Cobb protested to the McDon-

connection with the "mysterious incident," Samson mentioned that he "had done worse things," e.g., a 1972 break-in of Agence de Presse Libre du Quebec offices. In June 1977 the Quebec government appointed the Keable Commission to enquire into police operations in Quebec. The next month the McDonald Commission of Inquiry into illegal RCMP activities and "national security" was announced by the federal government. The Ontario government also set up a commission to investigate charges of violations of the confidentiality of health care insurance records after the Keable Commission revealed reports that the RCMP used supposedly inaccessible medical information in its campaign to disrupt left-wing organizations in the early 1970s.

The Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), successor to the League for Socialist Action (LSA)--one of the targets of the RCMP disruption campaign --along with Ross Dowson, a leading member of the LSA until 1974, testified before the federal and Ontario government commissions. And in December 1977 Dowson launched a \$500,000 slander suit against the RCMP after Ontario Attorney General Roy McMurtry said that RCMP officials had justified their investigation of the NDP on the grounds that the left-leaning Waffle group had invited "subversive" elements into the party, including members of the LSA.

Revolutionaries do not shrink from using the courts, as well as other means, to defend themselves from repression. They may sometimes use the courtroom as a platform for socialist propaganda, as American Trotskyist James Cannon did in the 1941 trial of 18 leaders of the then-revolutionary Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and the Minneapolis Teamsters union for conspiracy to overthrow the U. S. government. But fake-Trotskyist reformers, Dowson and the RWL, are using the courts and government-sponsored commissions to aggressively denounce socialist principle and to put forward their view that consistent democracy equals socialism. While arguing that they are exposing bourgeois state repression, they are really exposing their own appetites for bourgeois legitimacy and respectability.

In its brief to the McDonald Commission the RWL described its activities in pursuit of a "qualitatively more democratic" society:

"In English Canada, we give critical support to candidates of the New Democratic Party.... In Quebec, our members are active in the movement to found a workers party based on the unions.... The RWL does not propose to accomplish its aims through illegality."



An old French wartime poster with a difference: "The enemy is on the lookout for your secrets."

ald Commission that "what we have done is relatively banal, compared to what has been done by other intelligence services." But the RCMP has served the Canadian bourgeoisie loyally and with gusto, if not always with *savoir faire*, and its record as a vicious instrument of capitalist political repression is long and consistent.

In July 1974 RCMP agent Robert Samson was hurt when a bomb he was planting blew up. On trial in

In case the commissioners still harbored any qualms about the kind of society the RWL would like to see, they were referred to a document called "Socialist Democracy and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat." This document, adopted by the 11th World Congress of the "United Secretariat of the Fourth International," is a sustained polemic for granting full political rights, including the right to win governmental power, to pro-imperialist forces within the Soviet bloc--an echo of the old Carter anti-Soviet "human rights" campaign refracted through the Eurocommunist/social-democratic milieu.

The RWL brief is similar in its aims to the "socialist Watersuit" against the U. S. government being waged by its American cothinkers in the now ex-Trotskyist SWP. At an educational conference last August SWPer Larry Seigle described the goals of that suit:

"First, we want them to affirm in court that what we advocate, what we say, the ideas we stand for are legal and protected by the Bill of Rights....

"Second, they must agree in court that what we do is legal, that is putting the ideas into practice, here and abroad. Building revolutionary parties is an activity protected by the First Amendment...."

To make "building revolutionary parties...an activity protected by the First Amendment," that activity must be emptied of any real revolutionary content or even pretense.

Dowson takes it even further. The McDonald Commission, he suggests:

"should urge the launching of a massive corrective educational campaign directed not only to the RCMP but also to the public at large, many sections of which are confused by decades of red-baiting, both official and unofficial. This campaign would make it clear that dissent is not only legal but that it is a completely healthy development, if society is to evolve..."

It's obvious that Dowson got his education in the school of Karl Kautsky. It will take a workers revolution to smash the exploitative, oppressive capitalist system and lay the basis for a society organized to fulfill the needs of the majority. It is the role of revolutionaries to win workers to this understanding and to the fight for socialism.

When James Cannon was pressed in court on the question of violence in the proletarian revolution he replied: "It is the opinion of all Marxists that it will be accompanied by violence." He placed the blame for the violence, of course, on the capitalist class which will not willingly give up its wealth and power. As Trotsky said, "to renounce liberating force amounts to supporting the oppressors' force, which today governs the world" (Where Is Britain Going?). In the introduction to the second English edition of Terrorism and Communism Trotsky made it clear that Marxists have no sym-

pathy with the fetishization of "revolutionary violence." Discussing the Fabian socialists' position that the English proletariat could come to power peacefully through parliament, he said:

"The Fabian hope must, I fear, be held from the very beginning to be out of the question. I say 'I fear,' since a peaceful, parliamentary change over to a new social structure would undoubtedly offer highly important advantages from the standpoint of the interests of culture, and therefore those of socialism. But in politics nothing is more dangerous than to mistake what we wish for what is possible."

The RWL, Dowson and the SWP mention violence only to completely dissociate themselves from the very idea and from anyone who defends the use of violence against bourgeois state terror. The SWP actually went further than just verbally repudiating revolutionary violence--they "removed from membership" more than 100 members accused by right-wing journalists of supporting "terrorism" and trumpeted the expulsion in court as the government produced bulletins internal to the expelled tendency including a list of pseudonyms.

The SWP's claim that it is fighting to defend free speech on behalf of all the oppressed is completely hollow. At a February 7 New York rally, billed as a major event in the left's battle against repression, an SWP goon squad maintained the reformist ideological purity of the meeting by excluding the communists of the Spartacist League/U.S.

The reformists see their role no differently than did the Watergate reformers. The role of the working class is for them reduced to muckraking rather than fighting to abolish the capitalist state and its repressive institutions through proletarian revolution, a fight in which they have no faith. While the RCMP's crimes flow directly from its mandate to maintain and defend the capitalist order, Dowson dreams of a "profoundly democratic" police force under capitalism. Socialist revolution? Dictatorship of the proletariat? Not for Ross!

It is certainly principled--indeed intelligent--to use available legal means in an effort to hamper the dirty work of the secret political police. If exposure of their crimes and their incompetence demoralizes the police that is a good thing. And if the RCMP is forced to reveal some of its filthy secrets that is also welcome. (The SWP agreed that their counsel would keep information on FBI informers confidential, vitiating a central purpose of such a suit against the government.)

We hope Dowson can get the government to say it's sorry for the "excesses" of the past, thereby creating a less favorable climate for witchhunting in the future. But reformist illusions in the possibility of a capitalist class that plays by the rules and shakes hands if it loses the game never did anyone any good. ■

## El Salvador...

(continued from page 1)

our hemisphere" attempted to topple the Salvadoran junta (New York Times, 18 February). Next came a State Department memorandum asserting that "the insurgency in El Salvador has been progressively transformed into a textbook case of indirect armed aggression by Communist powers." The textbook, of course, was written not by V. I. Lenin or even Castro but by J. Edgar Hoover. Top presidential adviser Edwin Meese went on national TV to threaten a naval blockade of Havana ("U. S. to Cuba: We'll Blockade Over Salvador," New York Post, 24 February).

The stakes in El Salvador go far beyond the fate of the masses in that long-suffering Central American statelet. As it becomes the focal point in Reagan's Cold War drive, a counterrevolutionary invasion of Nicaragua is posed and the defense of Cuba and the Soviet Union are directly at issue. We demand: Military Victory to Salvadoran Left Insurgents! U. S./OAS Hands Off Central America! Defend Cuba and the USSR!

### Lies and Threats

Amid all the war talk of throwing a "cordon sanitaire" around Cuba and "refusing to rule out" U. S. troops to Central America, on February 23 the administration finally released its "White Paper" on El Salvador, more than 100 pages of lies and distortions. Even the bourgeois press put the word "evidence" in quotation marks, as the only "hard" material in the document talks of promises of arms from East European regimes, Vietnam and Ethiopia. The rest consists of thank you notes to Castro for his "help" and "requests" to the Hungarian embassy in Mexico; offers of "advice and exchange of opinions" by Nicaraguan leaders and statements that the Sandinistas view "the cause of El Salvador as their own" are taken as proof positive of "indirect aggression."



El Salvador guerrillas.

E. Montes

Contrary to Reagan's recent comments, cooking up such fictitious "proof" as a justification for military intervention is actually a specialty of U. S. imperialism. Recall the Gulf of Tonkin incident (which only appeared as alleged blips on a radar screen), the basis for sending American troops to Vietnam; or LBJ's famous list of 50-plus "communists" (most of them in jail or out of the country) in Santo Domingo, his excuse for landing the Marines in 1965. But more than just debunking Washington's lies is called for here. If there were adequate Soviet, Cuban and Nicaraguan aid to the left-wing forces in El Salvador, there wouldn't have been the more than 12,000 victims of the junta butchers and rightist death squads in 1980! It is criminal that the Soviet ambassador in Washington can truthfully plead innocent to Reagan's charges. All the more so as it is increasingly clear that the U.S.' real targets are Managua, Havana and Moscow.

Already Reagan cut off \$15 million in economic aid to Nicaragua left over from the \$75 million authorized under the Carter administration, using the excuse of Sandinista arms supplied to the Salvadoran left. He even slapped an embargo on a scheduled shipment of 20,000 tons of wheat contracted for by the Nicaraguan government; if no alternate supplies are found, this will mean that bread will no longer be available there by the end of March. Washington's hard-line message has gotten across to Managua, which is now pushing for some kind of negotiated settlement with elements in the Salvadoran junta. Sandinista leader Tomás Borge told the New York Times (16 February):

"In El Salvador, the guerrillas could not defeat the army and the army could not defeat the guerrillas. Things cannot continue like this. It is convenient neither for the Government nor for the guerrillas, neither for the United States nor for us. No defeat and no victory seems possible, so we feel that a political solution should be sought."

To encourage El Salvador leftists to take a similar stance, the Sandinistas recently shut down the Salvadoran "Radio Liberación" on Nicaraguan territory.

### Balance Sheet of the "General Offensive"

The "general offensive" carried out by El Salvador's left-wing guerrillas failed to spark the hoped-for popular uprising or to defeat the U.S.-backed military junta's forces. The offensive demonstrated the military capability of the rebel forces, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), to take on the Salvadoran army throughout the country. But it also demonstrated that the FMLN is still too weak to defeat the junta's forces and that the population was not yet prepared to join in a massive insurrection. After ten days of fighting, in which leftist forces briefly held several key towns, the rebels called a "tactical retreat" to regroup their forces and prepare for the next round



of battles. Thus the offensive was a failure as measured by the goals the FMLN leaders set for themselves: there was no mass rising and the rebels did not succeed in setting up a "liberated zone" in which to establish a rival government.

Since the offensive the guerrillas have been keeping pressure on the junta with hit-and-run tactics. A virtual press blackout has kept it out of the newspapers: only one TV channel reported it when guerrillas spectacularly blew up the Exxon refinery. But the main offensive being waged by the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) now is, diplomatic, not military. According to the New York Times Alan Riding, "If they fail in their next push, their leaders said privately, they hope at least to win a place at the bargaining table" (New York Times, 8 February). The liberal wing of the Salvadoran church, headed by Archbishop Rivera y Damas, is also urging a compromise between civilian junta head Napoleón Duarte and his former associate, FDR head Guillermo Ungo.

The "realistic" perspective of the FDR for a negotiated solution to the civil war poses a deadly danger to the Salvadoran masses. In the first place Reagan, eager to teach Cuba and the USSR a "bloody lesson" in Central America, is interested only in one kind of "solution" for the Salvadoran left: a "final solution." Delaying the necessary military day of reckoning with Reagan's puppets in the hopes of cutting a deal is both politically and literally suicidal. Moreover, even if some sort of negotiated settlement were possible, the bottom line for the bourgeoisie would be preservation of at least part of the gorilla officer caste. The military and paramilitary forces are prepared to massacre up to 200,000 workers and peasants to put down "Communist subversion." Any deal which would preserve even a part of this corps of sadistic murderers would simply prepare savage repression in the future. Just look at the actions of the "reform junta" installed by the U.S. in October 1979! No deal with the butcher colonels! Break with the bourgeoisie!

**Which Way Forward?**

As revolutionaries we would welcome the maximum in military aid by Cuba and the Soviet Union to the Salvadoran rebels. In the face of Reagan's war threats against Castro, we call on the USSR

to come to the defense of Cuba with whatever means are necessary.

The struggle in El Salvador cannot be separated from the fate of the Nicaraguan revolution. Reagan has written Nicaragua off as lost to "Marxism" despite the fact that the Sandinistas have been careful to preserve capitalist property and to share the ruling junta with bourgeois representatives. But the Nicaraguan capitalists, already



**Junta's troops.**

R. Cruz

deeply embroiled in coup plots and economic sabotage, are a point of support for counterrevolution, and the Sandinista Liberation Front (FSLN) leaders know it. Just as Eisenhower's turn against the Cuban Revolution pushed Castro into the Soviet camp and forced radical nationalizations on the petty-bourgeois July 26 Movement, Reagan's hard line against Nicaragua may force the FSLN further than it wants to go on the road to expropriating the bourgeoisie. But if Washington forces the consolidation of a deformed workers state in Nicaragua, it will be because it plans to roll on into Managua with its ex-Somoza mercenaries after smashing the left in El Salvador. This is no abstract danger. The Sandinistas' attempt to conciliate imperialism and the local bourgeoisie could spell their own doom.

The crisis over El Salvador is not merely a question of U.S. big stick policies in the Caribbean/Central American region it views as its "backyard." For Cold Warrior Reagan, El Salvador is the front line in the battle against world Communism. The defeat of the guerrillas there would only whet his appetite for attacks and military threats against Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviet-bloc states (first of all Poland). The military victory of the leftist rebels, however, would deal a stinging blow to Reagan's plans for global counterrevolution. Reagan has forced a showdown in which the alternatives in Central America are literally victory or death. And victory--workers revolution--depends on uncompromising class struggle, led by a proletarian Trotskyist vanguard, against all wings of the bourgeoisie in El Salvador and Nicaragua. ■

--Adapted from WV No. 275, 27 February

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# The Communist Party and the French Elections

Six months ago, French Communist Party (PCF) leader Georges Marchais promised a revolutionary, a really "red" election campaign. Tens of thousands of workers flocked to Bourget last November to listen to the PCF talk about taking new Bastilles. Marchais proclaimed: no alliances, that will be the party's campaign. PCF and CGT (the Stalinist-dominated trade-union federation) workers thought: "At least for once the party is not forced to vote for

and a l'Humanité editorial the following day likewise recognized that there had been "regrettable incidents" and some "deplorable acts." The start of self-criticism? No, simple maneuvering. A week later, the PCF gathered together an imposing phalanx of national leaders, including Marchais himself, for a demonstration in Vitry which barely managed to attract 4,000 (with few immigrants and many tricolor banners). But the prominent attendance, as l'Humanité (12 January) emphasized, "signified that the whole party will not deviate one inch from its immigration policy."

In contrast to the preceding years of the Union of the Left the PCF, for its own reasons, has decided to present itself in the 1981 presidential elections independently from bourgeois parties, while the Socialist Party (PS) strives to constitute a new popular front, notably with the Gaullists. In these conditions we have declared that without any illusion in the tactical and conjunctural character of the posture of independence by the PCF and without any illusion in its reformist program, which is just as class-collaborationist as



Immigrant miners demonstrate for equal rights.

the slimy Mitterrand! Electoral Union of the Left slates made up of dignitaries are over and done with! This time we'll be able to vote for our candidate."

Marchais took hold of this impulse for a class vote... to drag it in the mud! On December 24 the PCF mayor of Vitry, Paul Mercieca, led a commando of fifty against a hostel where a few days earlier 300 Malian workers had been installed, transferred from a hostel in Saint Maur. Telephone, water, electricity, heating were cut off, while a bulldozer ripped out the entry stairway and blocked the exits. A January 2 communiqué of the CGT "deplor[ed] the incidents at Vitry"

that of the PS, we would be prepared--if the PCF pursues this course--to vote for Marchais, a vote for Marchais being, though in a deformed way, a vote for the representative of the workers camp against the bourgeoisie (see Spartacist Britain No. 28, December 1980/January 1981).

The "savagely critical" aspect of our electoral support focused particularly on the social-chauvinist policies of the PCF (see Le Bolchévik No. 21, January 1981). Vitry and the PCF's campaign on this occasion raises the question of no longer envisaging giving critical electoral support to Marchais. Just as before we would say to



PCF militants: "We Trotskyists are for a vote of class against class. If your party maintains its posture of independence, we shall call for a vote for it in April 1981." We say to them today: "If your party chooses to focus its election campaign against immigrants we shall refuse to vote for it." In the CGT (which is covering for the PCF's actions at Vitry) the union fractions of a Trotskyist organization implanted in the factories might, in such a situation, lead a fight for the union branches to take a position against the racist action at Vitry, against the endorsement given by the confederal/national leadership of the CGT, and to open a debate throughout the unions on immigration, a decisive question for the class struggle in France.

The waves provoked by Vitry and its chauvinist campaign on immigration had barely died down when the PCF leadership threw itself into a noisy campaign for "moral order" against drugs. Aimed at distracting from workers' struggles and winning votes, this reactionary campaign, as with Vitry, tries to present a "respectable" party which has a "sense of responsibility." With the same "sense of responsibility," Marchais demanded the PCF's "rightful place" in a Mitterrand government as soon as Mitterrand had been named PS candidate.

When the workers turn on their radios to hear the news of Marchais' latest outburst, they ask themselves: "Is it really possible that this is our revolutionary campaign: encouraging racial divisions between French and immigrant workers, demanding more cops to uphold the 'moral order,' making new deals with Mitterrand?" No, it is not! But, like legions of Stalinist bureaucrats before him, Marchais is attempting to sidetrack the workers' massive impulse to express their class independence in order to provide the bourgeoisie with guarantees of his attachment to the capitalist order. Not for nothing did Trotsky characterize Stalin as the "great organizer of defeats."

### Govern with Avowed Anti-Communists?

Can PCF members who supported--correctly--the Soviet intervention against the reactionary Afghan mullahs and who mobilized against NATO missiles in Europe bear even for a moment the idea of governing together with Mitterrand, who never misses the chance to remind people that he is imperialism's "loyal administrator," especially in terms of his hatred of the USSR? With a Mitterrand who allows himself to give Giscard lessons in anti-Soviet firmness, calling him a "Munichite"! Yet this same Giscard speaks of his "favorable predisposition" toward Reagan just when he has been throwing around open threats against the USSR. The election of this "Johnny off to the war" should entrance Mitterrand, who last summer was being more Atlanticist than NATO and more warlike than American imperialism, criticizing the former for its "disorganization" and the

latter for "defaulting" to the USSR (Le Monde, 31 July 1980). Symbolically, the PS candidate's first international gesture was a virtually presidential trip to China: among the allies of American imperialism the Stalinist bureaucrats in Peking have shown themselves to be the most virulently opposed to the USSR. As opposed to the privileged bureaucratic caste which has usurped the proletariat's political power in the USSR (and also the PCF leadership which supports it), imperialism and its social-democratic flunkies have not the slightest illusion in so-called "peaceful



**PCF leader  
Georges  
Marchais:  
An overdose  
of chauvinism.**

coexistence"; the imperialists remain fundamentally hostile to the USSR for the same reason that we Trotskyists are for its unconditional defense: its bourgeoisie was expropriated by the October Revolution.

As expected, the PS insultingly refused to entertain the PCF's demand for Communist ministers. Repeating PS leader Jospin's declarations, his colleague Estier wrote in the PS weekly l'Unité of February 6: "...the demand made by Georges Marchais and his friends is incompatible with the PCF's current policy toward the Socialist Party and its candidate, as with its positions on a certain number of essential problems (Afghanistan, Poland, SS-20 missiles, etc.)."

Right away, the social democrats put their finger on the central question that the Stalinists (like the fake-Trotskyist preachers of unity in the Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire [LCR] and the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste [OCI]) seek to avoid: it is a time of renewed Cold War against the USSR and, under these circumstances, the social democrats (like their imperialist masters) hardly want to compromise themselves with a party linked to Moscow! Instead, PS leader Georges Sarre proposes "forging a multi-class front," a

(continued on page 10)

## French Elections...

(continued from page 9)

"third family" with the Gaullists (l'Unité, 30 January). As for Mitterrand, the "ten commandments" of his election campaign ("Save the Republic," "France is Retreating," etc.) are a gross appeal to the Gaullists..

### Demand an Accounting from Your Leadership!

The PCF leadership opened its election campaign by declaring that the Union of the Left, like the "experiences" of 1936 and 1945, had profited only the bourgeoisie (a "discovery" that Trotskyists had made quite some time previously). "Henri Malberg summed up the experience in three dates: 1936, 1945 and 1978.... Hope three times deceived and the bitter aftertaste of depressing dawns" (l'Humanité, 13 October 1980). Today another, more usual act occupies front stage: "How can we fail to note that the two recent periods of our country's history which have been favorable to the workers are precisely the two periods when the Communists were with or in the government: 1936 and 1945" (l'Humanité, 30 January). PCF members and workers who usually put their confidence in it now more than ever have the right to demand an accounting from their leadership.

Today Marchais pretends to be outraged: "What, Mitterrand stretches out his hand to the Gaullists!" But he "forgets" that in the "belle époque" of the Union of the Left around 1974, it was the PCF which came out for "acting in favor of a rapprochement with the workers, democrats, Gaullist patriots...which is indispensable to realize the Union of the People of France" (21st Congress Resolution).

Marchais kicked off his election campaign by promising his members and the working class that he would be the "candidate of battles" against the bosses and the government. Glorious battles indeed--the racist intervention against the dormitory of immigrant workers in Vitry, the public denunciation of a Moroccan family as "drug pushers" or collecting the names of those who take drugs in a Villeurbanne high school! Is this really what PCF members who wanted to fight the bourgeoisie expected: to play the role of police auxiliaries? With the PCF leadership's anti-immigrant policy encouraging divisions between workers, what kind of battle can there be in a bastion of the working class like Renault where a good part of the production workers are immigrants? Instead of strikes against layoffs and factory closures, the PCF leadership prefers organizing publicity stunts during a televised debate in which bourgeois politicians participated.

With his campaign of "Produce French" Marchais presents himself as the defender of French capitalist interests in the context of exacerbated inter-imperialist rivalry. After defending French cars against Japanese cars, and French coal against South African coal, the PCF leadership is now defending French tanks against German tanks

("Kill French") and pastis and other "home-grown" liquor against Anglo-Saxon whiskey ("Down with Anti-National Cirrhosis! Drink French!"). All these chauvinist excesses would simply be grotesque if they didn't in practice represent lining up with the interests of "our own" bourgeoisie against the working class.

With its latest campaign, the PCF leadership has wanted to prove that its desire and capacity to administer capitalist society also extend to defending its "moral order."

For us Trotskyists, taking drugs is not a crime, any more than the other so-called "attacks on morality" such as prostitution, pornography, gambling, homosexuality, the right to sexuality for minors and all truly consensual sexual acts. We are opposed to all laws against these so-called crimes. They can only reinforce the cynical moralism of the priests and expose individuals to arbitrary and gratuitous persecution by the bourgeois state. Cops and priests out of the bedroom!

It doesn't matter that Marchais proclaims his opposition to the repressive Peyrefitte law. His appeals for reinforcing repression against drugs (in particular increasing the number of cops) come precisely at a time when this reactionary law is going into effect and reinforce the repressive apparatus of the bourgeois state.

If between now and the elections Marchais retains a smidgen of class independence which justifies electoral support--violently critical and with rage--it will be despite himself and solely because his competitors in the PS are so fervently anti-Soviet that they are capable even of distrusting someone like Marchais who multiplies the most servile proofs of loyalty toward French capitalism.

### "Unity" Undone

Jospin's reply to the PCF did not merely smash the "unity toy" of the pseudo-Trotskyists of the LCR and OCI, it confirmed that today the Russian question is decisively posed, a fact which these capitulators have always denied--against us--with the aim of avoiding the question of the defense of the USSR against imperialism.

At the very moment when the world is endangered by imperialism's anti-Soviet menaces and

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when the bourgeoisie redoubles its blows against the working class, the LCR and OCI have chosen to confront each other in a crazy polemic over... joint PC-PS candidates on the first round versus standing down for the PC-PS on the second round! So these are the decisive stakes for the working class! Pretty sad, the "far left"...

The LCR may well declare that "Mitterrand is not the candidate of unity" and criticize the OCI for voting for Mitterrand even on the first round while he is putting out feelers toward the right, but what will the LCR do on the second round if not also vote for the candidate of an alliance with the bourgeoisie! A Trotskyist policy, on the other hand, consists in calling on the workers not to vote either on the first or second round for Mitterrand, who has committed himself to the formation of an alliance with representatives of the class enemy.

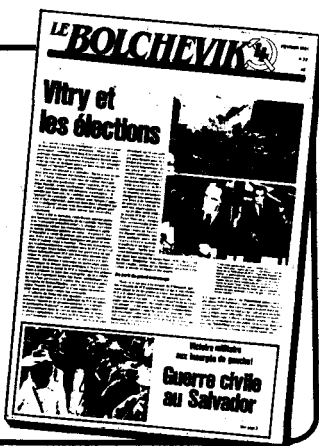
The PCF demand for ministers lays bare the LCR's opportunist line. Wanting to play at marriage broker, it criticizes Mitterrand on the one hand for not taking Marchais at his word, that is, for not wanting to rebuild the bourgeois Union of the Left! And on the other hand, it criticizes Marchais (when Jospin has been explaining that the condition for unity is that the PCF break with Moscow) for not really wanting unity with the PS, that is, for not completely lining up with its own bourgeoisie--a logical position on the part of an organization which hailed the Eurocommunist currents in the CPs as a positive phenomenon. With the PCF calling a sudden halt to its Eurocommunist swing, a good number of Eurocommunists have sought refuge in Union dans les Luttes, where, in a bloc with other decomposing "far left" groups, the LCR serves as a stepping-stone to the political ambitions of these petty bureaucrats.

In addition, LCR members should ask themselves questions about the usefulness of an organization whose newspaper headlines "Facing the Right, One Solution! Stand Down! PC-PS Government!" (*Rouge*, 6-13 February). Let us hope there still exist in the LCR militants who think that the only solution when facing the bourgeoisie is the revolutionary mobilization of the proletariat on the Trotskyist program of the vanguard party.

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We alone defend this program, in particular by fighting today for the class independence of the proletariat and for the defense of the USSR against imperialism.■

--Adapted from *Le Bolchévique* No. 22, February 1981 and No. 23, March 1981

## Mamonova...

(Continued from page 2)

opposition to the Red Army intervention into Afghanistan--in this shooting war in which the liberation of women from the most backward, feudal oppression is at stake. Mamonova and her "sisters" called on Red Army soldiers to desert and to spit on their "shameful uniform." These "Russian feminists" who say "Carrying the Red banner is really no different from wearing the veil" ought to try living the life of a veiled Afghan woman, enslaved by poverty and ignorance and smothered under 30 yards of black muslin cotton.

Mamonova and her ilk draw inspiration from historical traditions far closer to those of the Women's Battalion of Death, the last desperate defenders of the Winter Palace, than to the millions of Soviet women first awakened to conscious political life by the Bolshevik Revolution. In supporting this anti-communist the SCO has shown its utter contempt for the Bolshevik women who fought with courage, determination and intransigence to extend the October Revolution to what is now Soviet Central Asia. The emancipation of women throughout the USSR will be completed only when the proletariat throws out the Stalinist bureaucracy in a political revolution, re-establishing the proud traditions of Lenin and Trotsky. To the Soviet woman--for whom defense of the USSR remains a life and death question--the SCO has nothing to say.■

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# Ontario Elections: No Choice For Labor

Four decades of Tory rule in Ontario--axing jobs, slashing wages, strikebreaking. In the March 19 Ontario elections the twin parties of big business--the Tories and Liberals--had only one real election promise: more of the same. What choice was there for the working class, the poor and the oppressed? The trade-union bureaucracy argued: "the only realistic choice is the N. D. P." The fake-Trotskyists of the Revolutionary Workers League, long-time vote hustlers for Canada's social democracy, echoed this refrain: "The issue in the Ontario elections is simple--throw out the Tory government. Elect the NDP" (Socialist Voice, 23 February).

The Ontario New Democratic Party is so wretchedly right-wing that even Liberal Party leader Stuart Smith can ask, "who needs an NDP when all you get is a Tory in union clothing?" An "alter-native" for working people? Hardly. In these elections a vote for Cassidy and Co. in no way represented an expression of independent working-class political action. The only real choice for labor was to have stood its own candidates, against the NDP, on the basis of a class-struggle program.

Over the past year Michael Cassidy and the NDP have cast their votes for Tory austerity, strike-breaking and union busting. From supporting the budget to muzzling its own loudmouth Ed Ziemba for decrying Tory patronage, the ONDP's desk-thumping for the Davis government was so grotesque that Tory treasurer Frank Miller admonished: "We know you support us, but please not so openly." With one of their own serving as "Her Majesty's" representative in Canada--Governor-General Ed Schreyer--these social democrats even voted for the Throne Speech! So open and so blatant has the ONDP's support to the Tory government been that one Liberal MP shouted out in the Legislature: "You are, in the vernacular of the street, the easiest make in town."

The working class desperately needs a party that will mobilize the labor movement in class struggle against the bosses and their government. Instead the ONDP has consistently propped up the

## Drop the Charges!

## **Protest Anti-Gay Cop Rampage!**

It was the largest bust since the War Measures Act, October 1970. More than 150 cops invaded Toronto's gay bathhouses on February 5 and arrested 286 men for the "crime" of being homosexual. The response to the Gestapo-style raid was fear and outrage. The next night 3,000 gays marched through downtown streets chanting, "Liars, bigots, Nazis: Toronto cops!"

It was not just Toronto's sizable gay community that felt threatened by this vicious attack. More than 1,500 attended a protest rally on February 10 and over twice that many demonstrated at Queen's Park on February 21. They came not only to solidarize with victimized gays but because they understood that the raid was not an isolated incident. The widow of Albert Johnson (a Jamaican immigrant gunned down by the cops in his own home) spoke at the rally. Wally Majesky, president of the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto, conveyed the council's support for an independent investigation of the raid, a civilian police review board and amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The raid hit close to home for blacks, members of other minority groups and

workers who remember the RCMP raid on union offices during the 1978 CUPW strike (representatives of CUPW raised the motion in the labor council).

Democratic rights are indivisible. The right wing, including the Ku Klux Klan fascists, is gaining a foothold in Ontario in the context of economic decline and unemployment. Labor must counter the right-wing offensive--ultimately aimed not just at minorities and so-called "deviants" but at the organized labor movement--by fighting for democratic rights as part of the struggle to overthrow the decaying capitalist system.

The bosses' cops will never "serve and protect" workers and minorities. Of course the bonapartist marauders of the Toronto police are opposed to any form of "accountability," but no amount of "civilian control" can change the role of police in capitalist society--protecting the bosses' system of exploitation and oppression. All defenders of democratic rights have a stake in the defense of the gay raid victims. Send donations for legal costs to: Harriet Sachs in trust for the Right to Privacy Committee, 730 Bathurst Street, Toronto M5S 9Z9, Ontario.■

bourgeois government and turned its back on labor. Hospital workers hit the bricks in opposition to no-strike legislation and to fight against poverty-level wages, deteriorating working conditions and job loss. Not one word of support came from the mouths of Cassidy and Co. let alone any attempt to bring the active solidarity of all labor behind the embattled hospital workers. In the wake of the strike close to 3,000 hospital workers were suspended and 28 of their union leaders, from local presidents to shop stewards, were sacked. On the hustings Cassidy "opposed" the firings and suspensions... in favor of forcing hospital workers to "pay their debt to society" through free community work!

Last spring the ONDP gave its stamp of approval to the Tories' Bill 89, a vicious new amendment to the Labour Code allowing scabs the right to vote on contracts and bringing the government and companies into the very heart of the trade unions. For the thousands of laid-off workers the NDP has a program not of saving jobs but, at best, simply easing the pain of getting the axe--a few dollars severance pay, some paltry pension benefits combined in a program of the most poisonous economic nationalism.

The Ontario NDP deserved no support from militant workers in these elections. On not one issue did it come out in defense of the interests of labor. Even the social democrats' slavishly loyal supporters in the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) had trouble finding an issue on which to hang their traditional call for a vote to the NDP. But here's what they came up with: "The NDP's fight to defend Medicare today is more than enough reason alone to vote NDP" (*Socialist Voice*, 23 February). To be sure, OHIP is one of the sacred cows of the NDP. But didn't the RWL once call for free socialized medical and health care? This demand has always been too radical for the NDP. Having had little success in "winning the NDP to socialism" the RWL has adopted the program of the NDP.

Unconditional and uncritical support to the NDP is an article of faith for these fake-Trotskyists. But for Leninists to give even the most critical electoral support to the NDP it must run as a party of the working class counterposed to the parties of the capitalists. The ONDP however has been the loyal prop to Tory rule--a policy which it continues to uphold as a measure of its "responsibility." As a consequence, the Trotskyist League advocated a position of conditional opposition to the NDP in the Ontario elections: no vote to the ONDP until it breaks with its practice of tacit coalition government with the Tories. Only NDP candidates who stood opposed to the policy of coalitionism could have merited critical electoral support.

The organizations to the left of the NDP which ran in the elections also warranted no support. The Communist Party stood eighteen candidates on the basis of its standard class-collaborationist call for a "new majority" of all "progressives" to

implement a reformist program of unadulterated Canadian nationalism. And, with Reagan rattling the sabres of his anti-Soviet war drive there was certainly no basis for supporting the campaign of Judy Darcy, candidate of the thoroughly anti-Soviet Workers Communist Party.

The Ontario elections underlined once again the urgent need for a new leadership of the labor movement. Not the NDP--but a workers party committed to the overthrow of the decaying capitalist system and the establishment of a workers government. ■

## No to Violence in the Workers Movement!

The following is an open letter to In Struggle!:

1. Violence has no place within the workers movement.
2. On March 7th a leading member of your organization staged a wanton and unprovoked attack on a Spartacist Canada photographer during the International Women's Day march. The photographer, well known to several of your members, was taking a picture of your contingent's placards when your member ran up unseen and at full speed crashed into him from behind. Using both hands, your member smashed his picket stick down onto the photographer's head. By sheer luck the photographer escaped serious injury. Trotskyist League supporters and IWD marshals immediately intervened to defend him and prevent further attack.
3. Your member's outrageous behavior could have opened the whole demonstration up to police harassment.
4. IS! claims to stand for open discussion on the left. The Trotskyist League and other organizations have attended your public meetings, participated in the discussions and encountered no problems of this kind in Vancouver. If you really believe in openness and workers democracy, and if your member's attack was merely the frenzied action of an undisciplined individual you will condemn his behavior so that the rest of the left will know this sort of gangsterism is not your policy.
5. British Columbia has the most class-conscious working class in English-speaking North America. The left and labor movement here has been relatively free of this kind of hooliganism and it should stay that way.

## Trotskyist League Directory

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## B.C. Labor...

(continued from page 16)

of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees Union (VMREU) have been out on strike for the past six weeks. And 100,000 workers--including forestry, mine and steel workers--are facing contract battles.

TWU and municipal workers' flying picket squads closed down hundreds of companies, sometimes with just one picket, as unionists enthusiastically carry out B. C. Fed policy: "A picket line means don't cross." A militant CUPE striker told Spartacist Canada that workers strangled by court orders limiting pickets to four at the crucial Vancouver-area garbage dump want to "defy the injunctions" and bring back "mass picketing" (see box). The TWU members, who tasted real power during their five-day occupation, are raring to go. A TWU leader admitted, "We've had to sit on a lot of our workers" (Province, 5 March).

With an angry membership breathing down their necks, the B. C. Fed leaders have adopted a town-

by-town rotating mini-general strike plan. But Kinnaird & Co. have refused to go after the decisive center, Vancouver. And it will take more than warning gestures to win reinstatement of the fired militants, cancel the crippling fines and wipe out possible jail terms hanging over the TWU. No firings, no contempt citations, no victimizations! The flying pickets work, so extend them! But why chase management scabs across the province? Shut down B. C. Tel with mass pickets! Enough of this union busting by smug General Tel executives sitting in Stamford, Connecticut: Expropriate B. C. Tel with not a penny for the bosses! And what about CUPE's fight? Throw the nearly 100 anti-picketing injunctions into the garbage! Mass picket the dumps!

Trotskyist League members and supporters in B. C. have been distributing a special SC supplement saying: It's time for a Vancouver-centered, province-wide general strike! And not just a sympathy action. All B. C. unions should demand: Rehire all victimized unionists, no reprisals against the strikers! Drop all charges, contempt

## Interview with Militant CUPE Striker

We present here excerpts from a March 2 interview with Gillian Campbell of the Negotiating Committee of CUPE Local 561, Library Section.

SC: Jim Kinnaird made reference to an escalation of picketing. What have you seen to date?

Campbell: Beyond the marked increase in the number of one-day work stoppages...there hasn't really been particularly much action. The B. C. Federation of Labour has come out against mass picketing. They're not prepared to do that at this time. The feeling of the membership seems to be that mass picketing is going to be the answer. The B. C. Fed for the most part seems to be prepared to play the ball within the legal arena...and they are not prepared to consider anything that goes outside that framework, like mass picketing, although certainly it has been raised frequently and vehemently by a lot of the outside workers who are picketing the garbage dumps which is one place on the lines where the morale is very low.

SC: Why is that?

Campbell: At most of the other places having a picket line does in fact stop most of the business that would normally be carried on. But at the garbage dumps, since they're obeying the injunction [limiting CUPE] to four pickets only, the trucks just keep rolling through the lines.... When the picket lines went up on the dumps there was a feeling that

those mass pickets would stop the work at the dump, they would close it down and on the basis of that they would win the strike. The fact that they have been restricted to four and that there has been no support for their defying that injunction has just completely disheartened the people on that line because they see themselves as completely ineffective.

SC: Have the garbage workers and other workers been willing to conduct mass pickets and go beyond what the leadership is--

Campbell: Certainly a strong desire has been expressed to defy the injunctions. The fellow from Burnaby who arranges the picket schedules at the Terra Nova dumps said today that if we're not prepared to fight the issue at the dump we might as well just accept the...offer and go back. Burnaby, North Vancouver, Richmond, New Westminster have all at varying times said more or less the same thing. Clearly they're not going to do that without the support and the allies that the B. C. Federation of Labour can mobilize....

SC: What will it take to win this strike?

Campbell: The feeling of our membership, which is a library local of about thirty women who never belonged to a union before, much less actually went out on strike, is that you're going to have to mobilize a lot of support on the garbage dumps, particularly, to win the strike. What that requires is a lot of organization and leadership which only the B. C. Federation of Labour is in a position to offer and which they're not offering.



citations and injunctions! Smash the anti-labor laws and win the unfettered right to strike! Wipe out the results of Trudeau's wage controls: Fight for a big wage boost for all B.C. workers--an immediate 20 percent catch-up, across the board--as well as full COLA! Settle the existing disputes on the strikers' terms! Militant British Columbia workers can show the way for labor across North America.

Unfortunately, B.C.'s trade-union leadership doesn't want to launch such an all-out fight. Despite their militant rhetoric (and occasional action) the labor brass accepts the framework of the capitalists and their laws. Throughout the TWU occupation phone workers loudly proclaimed their determination to face down the government, its

## Greetings from Militant Action Caucus

Brothers and sisters of the TWU—Solidarity with your sitdown strike against B.C. Tel's union-busting provocation. Your militancy is an inspiration to all phone workers. Victory to the TWU and CUPE strikers. All out to defeat government strikebreaking.

Militant Action Caucus in the  
Communications Workers of America,  
Locals 9410 and 11502

courts and cops. "It'll take an army to get us out," one TWUer told SC after the B.C. Supreme Court cited the union for contempt, threatening massive fines and jail terms. But the TWU leadership completely capitulated and called off the occupations. (A Trotskyist League leaflet opposing this sellout was well received. One union counselor said it "almost brought me to tears, telling my guys we had to leave.") Following the retreat from the B.C. Tel buildings, union president Bill Clark "completely and sincerely" apologized to the judge (Vancouver Sun, 17 February).

While sometimes the bureaucrats are forced into action by pressure from below in order to keep their authority, their real program is not class struggle, but the election of an NDP government. That's why Kinnaird stonewalled for months before marshaling even a small portion of the Fed's troops

behind the TWU, and then only for one day, while apparently ready to let CUPE and the thousands of other strikers go it alone.

Already the B.C. NDP, seeing power within its grasp, is doing its utmost to preserve its "respectability" in the eyes of the bosses. Not only has the NDP refused to support the TWU/CUPE strikes, but former labor minister Bill King has condemned the B.C. Fed's action on Vancouver Island: "I don't support what they are doing. I think where a contract exists that contract should be honored" (Vancouver Sun, 6 March). Vancouver's NDP mayor Mike Harcourt is daily scabbing on the CUPE strike and playing his role as management to the hilt. He says CUPE is demanding too much! And lest anyone think that the NDP's massive 1975 strikebreaking Bill 149 was a "mistake," leader Dave Barrett was explicit February 16 at the University of British Columbia when he responded to a challenge from a Trotskyist League supporter: "I make no bones about it, we would pass the same legislation!"

Militants who might look to the Communist Party of Canada (CP) as an alternative will fare no better. Perhaps the CP will disavow its active electioneering for Mayor Harcourt, but what about its long-time favored alderman, Harry Rankin, who has been crossing CUPE lines with the bureaucrats' connivance? When Rankin was addressing a CUPE rally at City Hall March 3, cries of "Scab!" greeted someone trying to cross the picket. When Rankin turned around, an SC reporter heard one CUPE picketer yell, "Not you, Harry, the other one!"

Pointing to the organized support of the trade-union leadership and building on the real need for a vehicle to combat the parties of the bosses--the Socreds, Tories and Liberals--the NDP occasionally passes itself off as a party fighting for the working class. But the NDP's job when in power is to administer the capitalists' state, including its laws, cops and courts. The labor movement doesn't need that kind of party. We need a class-struggle workers party that fights for a workers government. We need a party that would be in the forefront of the battle against union busting, a beacon for labor militants throughout North America. ■

of BCGEU Local 604, Miriam McPherson of the UBC Trotskyist League Club and a representative of the Trotskyist League. CUPW Vancouver Local president Evert Hoogers and the Militant Action Caucus in the Communications Workers of America, Locals 9410 and 11502, sent greetings. Members of the Revolutionary Workers League and the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) skulked around the edges of the rally but refused an invitation to speak.

## UBC Rally: Victory to TWU/CUPE!

On February 17 the UBC Trotskyist League Club sponsored a united-front rally in support of striking phone and civic workers. The rally, endorsed by the B.C. Division of CUPE, featured CUPE Local 561 (Library Section) Negotiating Committee member Gillian Campbell and TWU member Bill Brewer. Other speakers were Hilda Thomas for the NDP Women's Committee, Gord Ostby of Grain-workers Local 333, Phil Lyons who read a motion supporting the rally from the executive

of BCGEU Local 604, Miriam McPherson of the UBC Trotskyist League Club and a representative of the Trotskyist League. CUPW Vancouver Local president Evert Hoogers and the Militant Action Caucus in the Communications Workers of America, Locals 9410 and 11502, sent greetings. Members of the Revolutionary Workers League and the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) skulked around the edges of the rally but refused an invitation to speak.

## B.C. Labor: For a B.C. General Strike, NOW!



SC Photo

**TWU occupation lit the fuse: All out to smash the union busting!**

More than 6,000 unionists paralyzed the southern part of Vancouver Island March 6, shutting it down in a one-day general strike as a dramatic show of support for the embattled Telecommunications Workers Union (TWU). Almost nothing moved in traditionally militant Nanaimo in response to the British Columbia Federation of Labour's call to protest the phone bosses' latest union-busting move. In an attempt to gut the union of militants, B.C. Telephone, having supposedly reached agreement with the TWU on all other issues, arrogantly refuses to rehire over two dozen TWUers fired for picket line "misbehavior." B.C. Fed president Jim Kinnaird has warned B.C. Tel to sign a back-to-work agreement or "We'll start walking off the job from one end of this province to the other" (Vancouver Sun, 4 March). The Fed has targeted the Kootenays for the next regional work stoppage. The Steelworkers say 6,000 mine and smelter workers, 2,000 government and forestry workers and many others will walk off in Nelson, Trail, Kimberley, Cranbrook and Elkford.

While the capitalists' media wail, the British

Columbia workers are ready to fight--in their tradition as the most militant and class-conscious section of labor in English-speaking North America. For five days in early February, 11,000 TWU members occupied B.C. Tel centers, and 30,000 are on the bricks now. More than 10,000 members

(continued on page 14)

### Flash! Defend the TWU!

As we go to press the TWU leadership has agreed to a settlement which leaves the 24 fired workers' fates in the hands of an arbitrator. This sellout must be turned down. If passed it would be a defeat and a real danger to the union movement. No one's job would be safe. What about the injunctions, court orders, reprisals against picketers--the B.C. Fed must stop these attacks! No firings! No victimizations! No reprisals!