

# Bulletin

Twice-Weekly Organ of the Central Committee of the Workers League

NOW  
TWICE A  
WEEK!

VOLUME TEN NUMBER THREE 339

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1974

FIFTEEN CENTS

# FOOD PRICES SOARING 50%

**BY THE EDITORS**  
December's 2.2 percent rise in the wholesale price index capped a year during which the living standards of millions of working class families were slashed by the highest rate of inflation since 1946.

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The price of food has jumped 5 percent in the New York area in just the last five weeks. During the first week of 1974, the cost of meat soared 1.1 percent. This amounts to an annual rate of over 50 percent.

Inflation is the conscious policy of this government, which is determined to drive down living standards while at the same time creating massive unemployment.

The uncontrolled rise in prices comes on top of new reports of layoffs throughout the auto industry.

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Since the production cutbacks began in December, 250,000 auto workers have been put out of work.

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Wixom on the outskirts of Detroit, where 1100 auto workers will be laid off indefinitely.

He said that there is a strong possibility that the entire plant will be shut down within a few months.

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The trade union bureaucracy, led by AFL-CIO President George Meany and UAW President Leonard Woodcock, refuses to take action to defend jobs and living standards. Both men collaborate with Nixon's wage cutting policies by serving as advisers to the Cost of Living Council.

The wild inflation and spiraling unemployment now places a decisive confrontation between the working class and this government on the agenda. Nixon's policies are calculated to break the back of the trade union movement in this country.

The great strength of the labor movement must therefore be mobilized against Nixon. The fight for wages and against unemployment is a political fight. It is impossible to defeat the wage controls instituted by Nixon and the layoffs which his

(Continued On Page 12)



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This statement, compounded by the damning admission that he knew of the milk industry's pledge to donate up to two million dollars to his 1972 campaign, has dealt another blow to Nixon's "Operation Candor."

### MAJORITY

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Nixon should be impeached.

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### WITHHELD

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An actual hardening of Nixon's position was expressed in his decision last week to fire Leonard Garment as his Watergate defender. Garment had been associated with a policy of compromise with Congress and the courts.

In rejecting the Watergate committee's demand for White House documents, Nixon stated:

"I can only view your subpoena as an overt attempt to intrude into the executive to a degree that constitutes an unconstitutional usurpation of power.

The Congress continues to seek a way out of a confrontation with Nixon. Senator Sam Ervin stated that he would be satisfied if Nixon released as few as five tapes out of the 500 documents that have been subpoenaed.

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The achievement of this fund each month is critical for the strength of the paper which is now so vital as we enter the new stage of the crisis.

We have received so far \$384.82 on the monthly fund. We realize that this is low because the fund is only beginning. At the same time, there are only three more weeks for the January fund. This money is easily raised as part of a general selling of the paper in the street and selling subscriptions. East New York reports it can raise its weekly amount on Saturday sales alone.

There must be a real turn in this situation by next week with at least \$1,500 sent in.

In The Midweek  
Edition

"The Fight for the New Course," Part Three of The 50th Anniversary of the Left Opposition," by David North.

"Stranglehold on World Oil," by Jeff Sebastian.

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## Stalinism Endangers the Soviet Union

The Soviet bureaucracy and the Stalinist parties throughout the world have launched a campaign against Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, author of *The Gulag Archipelago*, which for sheer slander and vituperation is unequalled since the days of Stalin himself and his toady Zhdanov.

Passages from Solzhenitsyn's latest book, which is virtually a documentary of Stalin's crimes, have been distorted and quoted out of context in the Stalinist press to portray the great Russian author as a traitor and even a Nazi sympathizer.

### What We Think

The main accusation leveled by the Stalinists is that *The Gulag Archipelago* has become a tool in the hands of the imperialists who are anxious to use "anti-Soviet propaganda" to smash up the detente so

carefully cultivated by the Kremlin.

Tass, the Soviet press agency, declared that the "opponents of detente" and all those "who do spare neither efforts nor means in their desire to put the world back on the slippery path of the 'cold war'" will welcome Solzhenitsyn's book.

Charles LaRoche, editor of the French Stalinist weekly *France Nouvelle*, wrote last week that Solzhenitsyn "is interested in slandering his country, by which he hopes to harm the policy of the Soviet Union and also harm international detente."

Behind this constant harping on the damage being done to detente by Solzhenitsyn is the Soviet bureaucracy's tremendous fear that the detente is, in fact, falling apart.

The emergency war alert called by Nixon last October in the midst of the Arab-Israeli war revealed the real relations between imperialism and the workers state that lies just beneath the sugary coating of detente.

Since the war, the American military is demanding a massive arms buildup on the grounds that the Arab advances demonstrated the current superiority of Soviet weaponry.

Within the Soviet Union, the growing apprehension of the bureaucracy over the dangers of an imperialist attack is reflected in its decision to broadcast over Soviet television a film entitled "Seventeen Instants in Spring," which shows how the United States plotted with the Nazis during the closing days of World War Two to conclude a separate peace on the Western Front and then launch a joint campaign against the Soviet Union.

The film has generated enormous interest and is to be broadcast again due to popular demand.

However, even as the United States moves aggressively against the Soviet Union and the British imperialists seek to provoke a red scare within England by claiming that the USSR is providing weapons to terrorists, the Stalinists seek desperately to prop up the detente and blame Solzhenitsyn for its collapse.

Of course, the imperialists have sought to use Solzhenitsyn's book as a means of attacking the Soviet Union.

But they are able to use Solzhenitsyn's revelations only on the basis of the very point where the Stalinists and the persecuted author stand in agreement.

The imperialists seek to discredit the October Revolution by publicizing Solzhenitsyn's totally false conclusion that the crimes of Stalin were the inevitable consequences of the policies of the Bolshevik Party under Lenin.

However, the Soviet bureaucracy, for all its malicious harassment of Solzhenitsyn, cannot repudiate this charge for it bases itself on and defends the crimes of Stalin. It is the Stalinists themselves who maintain that the purges and betrayals represent the continuity of Bolshevism, not its counterrevolutionary opposite.

For this reason, the Stalinists are the grossest slanderers of the heritage of the October Revolution.

The attack on Solzhenitsyn has turned into an open defense of Stalin. Nowhere is this more evident than in the pages of the *Daily World*, organ of the American Communist Party.

The *Daily World* claimed in an editorial published January 4 that Solzhenitsyn was justifiably thrown into a labor camp during World War Two "because he engaged in activity while serving as an officer at the front which would have been punished in any army."

What is the activity to which the *Daily World* refers? It is the writing of a letter by Solzhenitsyn in 1945 in which he criticized Stalin.

Furthermore, the *Daily World* slanders the thousands who died in Stalin's purges and labor camps as "anti-Semites, counterrevolutionaries, spies, and assorted social criminals."

The *Daily World* is now returning to the very lies which Khrushchev was forced to repudiate in the "secret speech" made before the 20th Party Congress in 1956.

The American Communist Party and the Stalinist parties throughout the world return to these positions as they slander Solzhenitsyn for daring to expose the Soviet bureaucracy. Standing on Stalin's crimes, the bureaucracy cannot defend either the heritage of the October Revolution nor the workers state itself.

The defense of the Soviet Union against imperialism requires the construction of Marxist parties based on the principles laid down by Trotsky in the course of the struggle against the Stalinist bureaucracy which began fifty years ago with the founding of the Left Opposition.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of this struggle, on January 23, will represent both a major step forward in the building of the Trotskyist movement in the United States and a blow struck in the defense of the Soviet Union.



Arab soldiers at the front lines. See our report, opposite page.

## British Engineers Join Miners Fight

BY MITCH PATTERSON

The encirclement of London's Heathrow Airport by 200 British troops and armed policemen, Scorpion tanks, and Saracen armoured personnel carriers is in its third day.

It has now been announced that the army will also be mobilized at other airports throughout Britain.

The Tory government of Prime Minister Edward Heath ordered the military "security operation" allegedly against Arab terrorist attacks on Israeli officials.

With the use of the military, Heath is attempting to test the reaction of the public to the implementation in Britain of the same methods used by the British army in Ireland.

The brutal tactics employed by the British troops in Ulster against the Irish workers are now being tested for use against a possible nationwide mine strike.

Heath announced that the three-day work week, will continue at least until spring. This has already resulted in the laying off of 900,000 workers from their jobs.

### HALF

British Steel Corporation has recently announced that they are cutting their production in half. Immediately, 100,000 will be laid off and all steel production may come to a halt within a month.

The Tories continue to blame the unemployment and the rising cost of living on the overtime ban of the miners. The miners are determined to fight for a decent wage increase in defiance of Heath and the state pay laws.

Members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers have called for a national strike to back their wage claim.

This gives tremendous strength to the miners and shows the growing movement among the workers for a united fight against the Tories.

### OUTDATED ANTAGONISM

In an interview with *The New York Times*, Heath made clear he would not give in to the miners. He said: "We suffer too often from industrial disputes which have their roots in a type of outdated class antagonism which might have made sense in the twenties, but makes no sense at all today."

Saying that the British trade unions were the oldest of all the western nations and that they had been through two depressions, Heath concluded:

"I think that this history provides a background to many of the attitudes which still exist and it is these attitudes which it takes time to change."

### MILITANCY

"I think it is very questionable whether there is more militancy here than there is in the United States."

The *New York Times* followed up this interview with an editorial January 9 which stated: "Mr. Heath will get deserved credit for refusing to allow trade unions to hold an entire country for ransom."

The government and the capitalists here are watching events in Britain very closely to see if Heath can defeat the miners. This is warning to every American worker that the present unemployment is being pushed by Nixon to prepare for the all-out confrontation with the unions.

## Hard Line Premier In Spain

BY A CORRESPONDENT

The Spanish Premier, Carlos Arias Navarro, has formed a new government even more right-wing and repressive than the one before it.

Navarro formally took over his post January 5, after the former Premier Luis Carrero Blanco was killed in a bomb blast on December 20.

Navarro, a staunch and faithful ally of General Franco, has appointed eleven ministers, virtually all from outside the old Carrero government.

Two key former ministers, vice-president Torcuato Fernandez Miranda, and minister of foreign affairs Lopez Rodo, who are part of the so-called "liberal" Opus Dei section of Franco's Falange, have been shifted.

Navarro's long history of service to the fascist regime particularly suits him to his new job. He was general director of

security from 1957 to 1965 in charge of all police agencies, then Mayor of Madrid, and finally Minister of the Interior before becoming premier.

During and after the Spanish Civil War of 1936, he was a ruthless public prosecutor and directed the trials of republicans and communist militants.

In his first policy statement, Navarro after referring to Carrero Blanco's assassination, said:

"The Spanish government states that it will make use of all its authority—with severity and calmness—to defend the common good and to maintain an order in whose framework Spaniards can develop their rights and liberties."

The French government is co-operating with the Franco regime to track down militants of the Basque movement, ETA (Basque Nation and Freedom).

Six young Basques, who deny any connection to Carrero's death or even to the ETA have been forcibly sent from southern France to the north and the Spanish government is goading

France to extradite those responsible for the Carrero bombing.

For the first time since the civil war when Franco came to power, the Spanish regime is breaking apart under a tremendous movement of the Spanish working class.

An increase in repression and the savage jail sentences against the ten leaders of the illegal workers commissions will not stop the growth and influence of these unions or the intensification of strikes all over Spain.

The Spanish government also faces a rapidly declining rate of economic growth, a backward industry and the highest rate of inflation in Western Europe.

Even as their own members are being condemned to jail sentences of up to 20 years, the Spanish Communist Party continues to preach "peaceful coexistence" between the classes in Spain.

The Spanish CP has condemned "violence" and called for a dialogue "with all those forces interested in passing from dictatorship to democracy, bypassing the outdated spirit of the civil war."

The Spanish Stalinists are seeing to cement closer ties to the "liberal" section of the Spanish capitalists because they sense that once again the Spanish working class is on the road to revolution.

EDITOR: Lucy St. John; Labor Editor: David North  
Art Director: Jeannie Cooper

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Rheingold Brewery in Brooklyn, N.Y. set to close in next few weeks. See story page 4.

# Yen Falls, Chaos Hits Exchanges

**BY JEFF SEBASTIAN**  
On Monday the Bank of Japan capitulated to a wave of speculation against the yen, discontinued all support operations, and allowed a devaluation of 6.7 percent against the dollar.

In the last two weeks, Japan spent over one billion dollars in US currency in an attempt to prop up the yen.

Only last February, the yen was considered the strongest currency in the world and most countries had allowed their currencies to float rather than to peg them to a rapidly plummeting dollar.

Now virtually the entire competitive advantage gained by the US in two devaluations of the dollar has been wiped out in massive depreciations of European and Japanese currencies.

The British pound has fallen by more than 10 cents in the last two weeks, while the mark despite massive intervention by the German central bank, has plummeted even more.

#### DEVALUATION

These new developments reveal that a whole series of competitive devaluations against the dollar are now being prepared in Europe.

The run into dollars is in no sense an indication of any strength in the dollar, but of the desperate situation facing European and Japanese capitalism.

On Tuesday and Wednesday after the yen devaluation, the dollar slipped back in European exchange markets. Gold rose to record levels on Tuesday only to fall on Wednesday. A wave of panic selling hit the stock market which plunged over 40 points.

These wild fluctuations reveal a collapse of confidence in the prospects for capitalism itself. Nothing can be resolved by a few exchange adjustments. The monetary crisis underlying the present chaos and panic is absolutely fundamental.

The entire monetary and financial crisis of world capitalism is centered on the dollar which can no longer serve as a standard of value.

Thus, since August 15, 1971, with the removal of the gold cover from the dollar, the crisis took the form of a depreciating dollar and a huge US payments deficit.

Today, after two dollar devaluations and the devastating impact of inflation and the world oil embargo on Europe and Japan, the crisis is expressed by huge payments deficits in Japan and the Common Market and the collapse of their currencies.

Every advanced country outside the US now faces payments deficits of billions of dollars and inflation rates well above 10 percent. Japan faces devastation with a rise in the cost of living approaching 25 percent and the immediate loss of her entire foreign currency reserves.

The fall in European and Japanese currencies means more expensive imports and a new drive towards cheaper exports. In both cases, this will only fuel the already runaway inflation in these countries while heating up the trade war with the US.

The panicked flight into dollars and gold reveals a recognition that the US is rapidly forcing enormous inflation, mass unemployment and economic collapse on Europe and Japan.

These most recent developments prove the correctness of the International Committee's insistence that the world capitalist crisis is dominated by the struggle of the United States against Europe and Japan.

The blows struck against America's capitalist rivals must now spill back into the United States creating the conditions for a struggle for power by the working class here.

## Airline Collapse Looms As Fuel Prices Rocket

**BY A REPORTER**

Floyd D. Hall, president of Eastern Airlines warned on Monday that Eastern which lost \$50 million last year as well as a number of other carriers are on the brink of bankruptcy because of huge increases in the price of oil.

Hall is demanding two general price increases of five percent each over the next year and a 2 to 4 percent fuel surcharge on all tickets. This is in addition to a five percent raise granted domestic carriers last month.

#### CLAIMS

The airline industry claims that last year's profits of \$214 million will be swamped by soaring fuel prices which are expected to cost carriers an additional one billion dollars in 1974.

Eastern has already laid off 4000 employees and indicates that it is planning to furlough another 1500 in May. Eastern has also cancelled more than 300 daily flights.

Pan American has laid off 1600 and an airline spokesman warned that more are slated to go in the next few months.

#### CUTS

Northwest just cut an additional 24 daily flights and plans to cut flights to 37 a day.

Seven of these reduced flights

use giant DC 10s and 747s. American and TWA have now grounded a dozen jumbo jets permanently. Cutbacks and reductions in these large jets involves the destruction of huge amounts of capital as maintenance hangars, gates, and ground equipment cost nearly double the price for smaller planes.

#### CAPACITY

Frank Waldner, airline coordinator for the International Association of Machinists, told the Bulletin: "It appears to us that the carriers are using the fuel crisis to do what they have wanted to do for years, circumvent the Civil Aeronautics Board, lay off thousands, renegotiate capacity agreements and retain the most profitable route structures. The union has

protested to the CAB which has not even responded in two weeks."

#### PREVENTED

According to Waldner: "The IAM contract with major airlines expired on August 31, 1973, but under the Railway Labor Act we can be prevented from striking for at least another eight months."

He told the Bulletin: "The fuel crisis is being used as a giant hoax by the airlines to swap routes, and create mergers. Now the airlines are threatening to do away with meal service which threatens further layoffs of flight attendants. We have even suggested to the airlines methods for saving fuel through controlling the speed of the airplane."

## Syria Defeats Israeli Unit

**BY A REPORTER**

Syrian artillery inflicted casualties and drove back an Israeli armored unit that was advancing toward Syrian positions on January 7.

The Israeli forces acted in complete violation of the ceasefire agreement, negotiated last November 11.

This occurs on the heels of the talks between Kissinger and Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in Washington, where decisions were made to resupply Israeli forces.

Seventeen incidents of fighting broke out on Saturday along the Sinai front, where machine gunning and mortar fire were

exchanged.

Because the fighting has been continuous along all fronts in the Middle East and the Arab workers and peasants are determined to regain all territories occupied by the Zionist forces, the Arab representatives at the Geneva talks have been unable to reach any agreement on troop withdrawals with the Israelis.

Recently, Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat has furthered his attack on the living standards of the Egyptian workers by promoting foreign investment in the Egyptian economy.

Up to this time, much of the industry there was nationalized and operated under government control. Now these industries

are being sold to private interests from other countries.

Sadat plans to make Egypt an attractive area of investment by "creating confidence for foreign investors against nationalization, bureaucratic meddling, and other intimidation."

Japan and Germany have offered Egypt a \$280 million and \$400 million loan respectively, in exchange for guarantees from Sadat to end the Arab oil embargo completely, and to make profits from Egyptian industry.

In addition, US oil companies, Exxon, Mobil, and Standard Oil of Indiana, have tentatively committed several million to oil exploration in Egypt.



workers league young socialists public meeting

**50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE FOUNDING  
OF LEFT OPPOSITION**

martin luther king 310 west 43rd st  
labor center new york city

speakers:  
tim wohlforth  
david north

special films

january 23  
8 pm

\$1.50 trade unionists \$1.00 youth & unemployed

# Automation Big Issue In ITU Talks

NEW YORK—Members of the International Typographical Union Local 6 are able to engage in job actions against The New York Times following a successful appeal against an earlier permanent injunction which barred chapel meetings during work hours.

The Times has appealed the latest ruling but has not sought a stay, which means that the ITU can call a work stoppage at any time.

A new round of negotiations on the ITU contract is scheduled to begin Tuesday, and the main issue remains the threat of massive layoffs resulting from the installation of automatic equipment on the eleventh floor of the Times Building.

## COLD TYPE

Union officials have inspected the new facilities installed during the past year, which includes the new automated "cold type" equipment which can destroy the jobs of hundreds of typographers now employed.

Such newspapers as the Miami Herald and News, which produce more lines than the Times, use less than one half the work force because they have already brought "cold type" equipment into operation.

## Henry Brown Faces Life On Murder Frameup

### BY A REPORTER

NEW YORK, NY—Henry Brown will go to jail for life if he is convicted for the murder of two policemen.

His trial began January 8 at the State Supreme Court.

Brown is being accused of ambushing a police patrol car and killing both Rocco W. Laurie and Gregory P. Foster, on January 27, 1972.

The defense attorney for Brown, Sanford Katz, told the Bulletin that Brown was not in the state of New York when the murders took place. He said that the prosecution would use drug

"What am I supposed to do," declared Local 6 President Bertram Powers in a Bulletin interview Wednesday. "As I see it, there is no way I can save the jobs of all the 1000 men in the composing room."

## ATTRITION

"I see attrition, definitely. I think I will have one hell of a fight just to get the kind of attrition I want."

He said that the Times plans to use the automated equipment and that there is no way Local 6 can stop management from doing so.

Powers estimated that the equipment could lead to layoffs of up to 50 percent.

"From a practical standpoint, one has to face fact," stated Powers. "I do not know how I can tell the Times that it has to keep all 1000 men in the composing room. Maybe the problem has become one of our society."

The ranks of the ITU must demand that every job be defended. Layoffs will be used by the Times as the first step in destroying unions throughout the newspaper industry.

The leadership of the ITU must rally the entire printing trades and New York labor movement behind Local 6 in defense of jobs by launching a political fight against Nixon.

This requires the calling of a Congress of Labor to build a labor party pledged to socialist policies to fight unemployment, as the alternative to Nixon.

addicts to act as witnesses against Brown.

The trial is part of a campaign being conducted by the police and the government to railroad militant Black youth off to jail.

Police claim that Brown is a leader of the "Black Liberation Army," which Katz contends is



the invention of the police.

Presiding Justice Peter McQuillan announced that testimony might not be completed until the end of March, after noting that the District Attorney planned to call 70 people as witnesses.

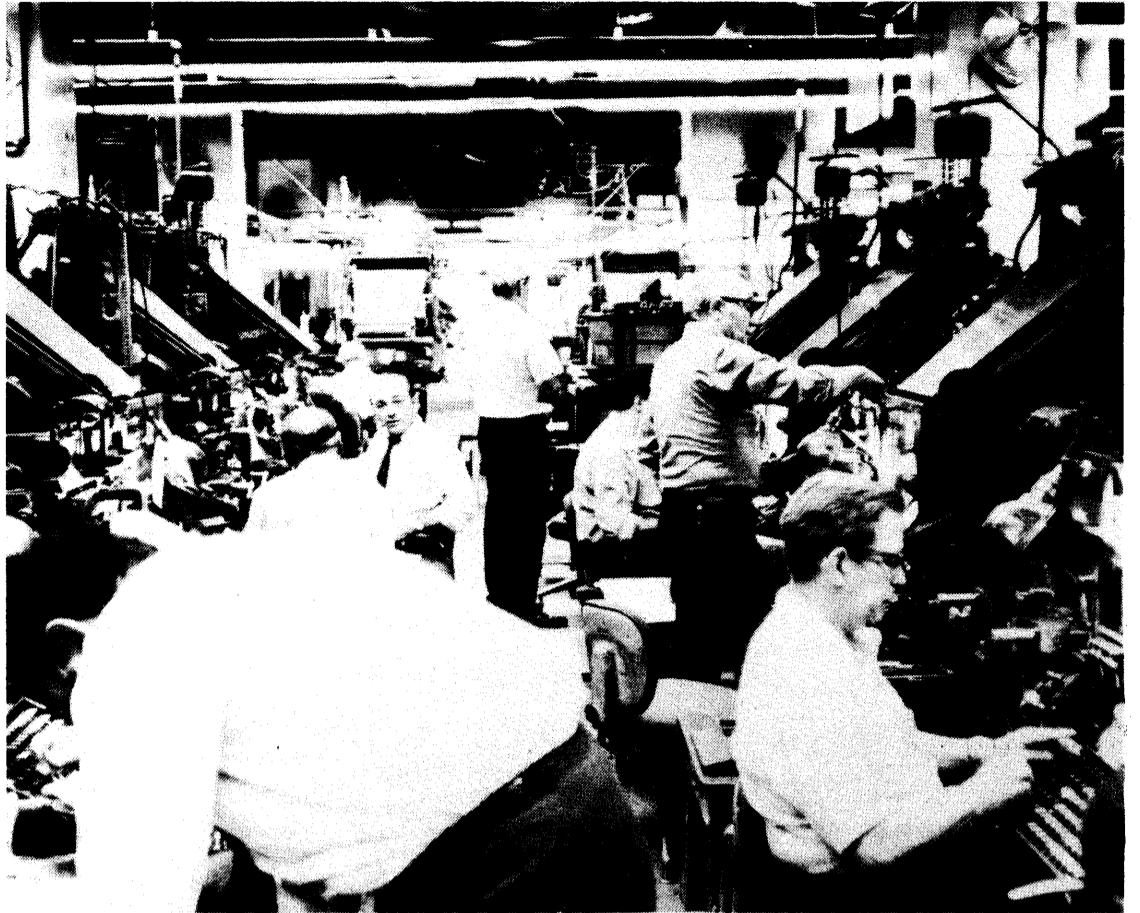
Brown was originally taken into custody in February, 1972 following an alleged gun battle with the St. Louis police. He was sentenced at that time to 25 years in jail for assault with intent to kill.

## Contract Strike At Atlantic Wire

BRANDFORD, Conn.—Workers picketed the Atlantic Wire Company here. Union officials want a two year contract, while the company wants a three year contract. Union officials say that this is the major stumbling block and that the wage offer is acceptable.

Workers on the line expressed anger at the wage offer and will not go back unless they get what they want.

Atlantic Wire is Brandford's oldest industry. Workers had struck the same time last January for a two year pact.



New cold type processes threatens jobs of typographers in the ITU.

## Baltimore Dockers Vote To Oust Convicted Official

BALTIMORE, Md.—International Longshoremen's Association Local 333 overwhelmingly voted January 8 for new bylaws which will block former president of ILA Local

829, Willis Schnauski from holding office.

The clause that will remove him had 373 votes to 259. It excluded Schnauski from holding office because he was convicted of taking a bribe to allow nonunion men

to work a union warehouse.

This is a resounding defeat for International Longshoremen's Association President Teddy Gleason, who openly supports the Schnauski leadership.

## DANGERS

There are, however, great dangers facing Baltimore longshoremen.

Last week it was announced by the Steamship Trade Association (STA) that piers on Locust Point and Harpers Field may lose due to oil shortages.

In addition, shipping companies are now consciously stockpiling in preparation for layoffs due to a strike in September. "There are ships in the harbor," said one longshoreman. "They can't even get enough men to unload them."

"The companies are stockpiling material so they can defeat a strike in September."

Another longshoreman said: "Many men do not realize it, but they will close down many piers before the contract runs out."

## PLEGGED

A new leadership in ILA Local 333 will be elected at the meeting scheduled for February 11. This leadership must be pledged to prepare for strike action to defend jobs in the port.

Longshoremen in Baltimore cannot stand alone in this strike. The ILA as a whole must shut down all ports if one job is cut.

## Rheingold To Close Brewery

### BY A REPORTER

NEW YORK, NY—The entire work force at the Rheingold brewery in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn is facing the unemployment line in the next few weeks.

Rheingold has announced that it plans to discontinue brewing operations and eliminate 1500 jobs. The shutdown is part of an effort by the Pepsico Corp., which recently took over Rheingold, to increase profits in the soft drink industry.

The workers at Rheingold, represented by Locals 3 and 46 of the Teamsters as well as a number of other unions, are angry and bitter about the closure.

One worker told the Bulletin: "They could sell plenty of beer, but they will not even make it because they want more profits. Now they are even trying to take our severance pay away."

The union officials are in Washington trying to work out some kind of deal, but not a single worker the Bulletin spoke to expects anything to come of it.

"It looks like a worldwide depression. Something should be done about companies like Pepsi that buy up companies in order to throw people out on the street."

## LOSSES

Just last spring, when Rheingold complained of large operating losses, the union officials agreed to a three year contract without any wage increases. The ranks were pressured to accept this in order to

"save" their jobs.

The threat of layoffs has been used by Rheingold, Frigidaire in Dayton, and the auto corporations to blackmail the workers into taking either a worthless wage increase or a pay cut.

All the corporations are preparing to go ahead with massive layoffs to restore their profits. This attack cannot be solved by one union striking alone.

Rheingold workers must demand the Teamsters leadership take action to defend the Brooklyn men by shutting all facilities of Pepsico.

The Teamsters leadership, representing one of the most powerful unions in the country, must be forced to fight for a Congress of Labor that will establish a labor party pledged to nationalize industry under workers control.

## Unemployment Threatens Thousands In Connecticut Valley

SHELTON-DERBY, Conn.—Following the announcement that the Uniroyal Synthetic plant in Naugatuck will close this March, the B.F. Goodrich plants in Shelton and Derby have announced they will close if they cannot sell them.

The plants employ nearly 2000 workers in the Naugatuck Valley area. This must also affect thousands of other people who supply Goodrich with services.

The Goodrich Company has announced that it is getting out of the cellular products business

in the whole of the United States. The 50 year old Shelton and Derby plants make a variety of cellular products from latex to mattresses, cushions, and pillows.

State officials have announced that unemployment is expected to go up to 100,000 in the state of Connecticut in 1974.

This week the United Aircraft Company, Connecticut's largest employers, had to deny rumors and reports that it plans to shut down its plants for the month of February. 53,000 out of 65,000 employees of United Aircraft work in Connecticut plants.

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers League, held over the weekend of January 5 and 6, centered on the new political situation internationally and in the United States. A report given by Tim Wohlforth, national secretary, warned of the dangers which now face the labor movement from the conscious policy of unemployment being promoted by all capitalist governments.

Comrade Wohlforth stressed the importance of developments in England because of the combined character now of the revolutionary struggle in Europe and America. What happens today in England is a more concentrated expression of what has already begun to develop within the United States.

On an international scale, he stressed, we are no longer in a preparatory period for revolutionary struggles, but have entered a new period where revolutionary tasks are now being posed in a number of countries.

In England, clearly the Heath government is exaggerating the fuel problem in order to force out of work millions of workers and thus weaken the working class, pit sections of workers against militant workers like the miners, and whip up frenzy in the middle classes. At the same time, Heath openly prepares repression against militants and revolutionaries while he plots ways of bringing the right wing of the Labour Party and the union bureaucracy into the government. All this is but preparation for confronting revolution itself.

In the United States, we already see the beginnings of a similar policy. The oil shortage is being exaggerated, oil supplies are being deliberately held back, large-scale unemployment encouraged in auto and other industries, as the military gain greater and greater power in the inner councils of the Nixon government.

Comrade Wohlforth stressed that the "oil crisis" was not just a crisis of oil, but of capitalism as a system of productive relations which could no longer advance the productive forces of mankind.

Affected by the falling rate of profit, uncertain as to the value of the dollar, the oil monopolies for almost a decade have refused to make the kind of capital investments necessary for a plentiful supply of oil in this period. This is not isolated to the oil industry, but the same refusal to make capital investment decisions of a long range nature have affected the paper industry, steel, and many other industries where man first takes the products of nature and begins the process of the transformation into the necessities of men.

It is significant, Wohlforth noted, that we have now entered into a new stage of the monetary crisis marked by the fall of the Japanese yen. The capitalists have been unable to establish any stable relationship between currencies because the relationship of all currencies through the dollar to gold has been severed by Nixon's August 15, 1971 decisions.

That the currency crisis now

## Workers League Central Committee Meets

# A New Stage Of The Crisis



Adele Sinclair of the Young Socialists addresses meeting of 450 greeting the twice-weekly Bulletin.

takes the reverse form of the rise in the dollar against other currencies is only a sign that the United States remains the dominant capitalist nation capable of pushing part of the crisis on to the shoulders of Europe and Japan without, however, resolving anything for the United States. Thus as the dollar rises against the yen and the mark it falls against gold as gold hits an almost all time high of \$126 an ounce.

This makes clear that we are not just in a period of temporary shortages of a single commodity, but of a fundamental breakdown of the capitalist system which can only be resolved in civil war—through the capitalist's effort to break the back of the working class movement and establish an entirely different relationship between capital and labor, or through the working class's struggle to overthrow capitalism itself and make it possible for mankind to move forward.

Within this framework, the Central Committee considered a revised draft of the resolution, "Perspectives For The American Revolution," which was originally passed at the Fifth National Conference of the Workers League in August 1973. There was considerable discussion on the question of the labor party. The main point emphasized was that the fight for a labor party is taking place under sharply different conditions than the rise of labor parties in other countries. In this period, such a party can come into existence right at the moment when revolutionary tasks are posed to the working class.

For this reason, it is critical that the struggle for the labor party proceed at every point around a socialist program. This is the struggle to construct our cadres in the unions against the labor bureaucracy, to construct the revolutionary party. At the same time, we warn the working class that the struggle for the labor party is not just an electoral matter. It requires the organization of committees in every neighborhood and in the unions for the defense of the

working class against attacks as the capitalists build up their police power and move more and more independently of any democratic restraint.

It was noted that there was a tendency now for the Socialist Workers Party, which for so long dropped the labor party question, concentrating on middle class protest activity, to take up the question again, but in a completely propagandist and reformist way.

### BUREAUCRACY

It is seeking to enter the labor movement through such sections of the bureaucracy as Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers and Miller of the United Mine Workers. Within the labor movement, it will defend the bureaucracy, giving it a radical protest cover while it talks of the labor party.

The other question which occupied the Central Committee discussion was the question of the Marxist method and its relationship to the struggle to transform the Workers League from its propagandist circle past into a fighting revolutionary force turned deeply into the working class.

A sharp turn was already underway in the political and economic situation. This turn can only be grasped through the Marxist method which begins with the changing objective world itself rather than with fixed thinking from the past.

Now, we must consciously break up the traditional way of political practice in the League which is practice of the circle stage of functioning, which is practice shaped by the past boom period. It will only be by beginning with this new situation that we will be able to break the grip of the past upon the movement and prepare it for the revolutionary tasks of the present.

An important discussion took place over perspectives for trade union work. It was proposed to the Central Committee that the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party call a National Auto Conference for March. At the same time, work would be stepped up in steel whose

national contract comes up this year, as well as in longshore, mining, and several other industries.

### TRADE UNION

Comrade Wohlforth emphasized that trade union work is of critical importance and that it is trade union work—that is, it involves contract fights, caucuses, and a day to day concern with every aspect of conditions in the plant.

However, we must not accept the limits of trade union work, we are not just trade unionists. We must continuously fight within the unions to develop our forces as Marxists fighting to construct the revolutionary party which fights in all sections of the working class politically.

It is true that the American workers, particularly the young workers, will seek to fight their way out of the present serious situation workers face through trade union action first. This means that wildcat actions have and will continue to take place. But these workers are quickly learning themselves the limits of such action under present circumstances.

This opens up a whole layer of workers to political development, to an understanding of the need to develop as Marxists, as party fighters, to build a movement which outlasts the ups and downs in the unions, which learns from each experience workers pass through, which prepares at all times the political alternative, which develops a serious leadership for revolutionary tasks.

The concluding section of the Central Committee meeting was devoted to the Young Socialists Campaign for Jobs and to the development of the Bulletin.

The YS Campaign now was seen in the light of the capitalists' aim to split the working class through unemployment in order to weaken it for a direct attack to destroy its unions and establish a new relation between classes. The fight of the Young Socialists to bring forward the youth politically against the government demanding at every point the action of the trade unions can be vital. Such a campaign can aid in

the development of new forces in the rank and file of the unions as well as develop a youth leadership.

### BULLETIN

The Bulletin has been at the heart of all the work of the Workers League for its past 10 years of existence. It was reported to the Central Committee that the Workers League has successfully completed the tasks it undertook in 1973 to set up a union print shop with the finest web offset equipment and publish the Bulletin twice-weekly. All equipment has now been installed and completely paid for. Despite great pressures placed upon us by the paper shortage, a large stock of paper has been procured so that the Bulletin can continue to be published.

The Bulletin now has a press run of 23,000 twice each week giving it the largest weekly circulation of any socialist paper in the United States with the exception of the Communist Party's Daily World.

The year 1974 will be the year of the transition to the daily. It will be the Workers League's task to develop its forces in the trade unions and youth, train them as Marxists, develop new branches and expand the circulation of the Bulletin.

The CC Meeting also noted considerable changes in the League since the Fifth National Conference in August. This has been most sharply expressed in the Middle West and comrades from that region played a vital role in the deliberations of the CC. In the North Central region, two branches have been set up in Minneapolis together with an already existing branch in St. Paul.

Chicago now has two League branches, a South Side Branch and a West Side Branch. The St. Louis branch has gone through considerable growth. Growth has been experienced by both the Detroit and Dayton branches, while entirely new branches have been established in Cleveland and Pittsburgh, with important beginning work in Buffalo and Youngstown.

In the rest of the country there have also been important developments. There has been growth in Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia area. On the West Coast, there are now two branches in Los Angeles, a Watts and an East Los Angeles branch, as well as the Claremont branch. In New York City, new branches have been established in East Flatbush, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Two Bridges.

### FUND

The Central Committee decided to launch two fund drives in 1974. First will be a monthly drive for \$5000 per month. This fund will be raised almost exclusively from supporters of the paper in the course of sales and subscription work and from subscribers. This fund is essential for meeting the increased costs of operation brought about by the capitalist crisis with its inflation as well as to give the movement resources to cope with the various police pressures upon so many of its members.

The second fund will be a \$100,000 Tenth Anniversary Bulletin fund for the purpose of launching the daily paper in 1975. \$50,000 of this fund will be raised in a spring drive from March to June 1.

It was emphasized that it is critically important to recognize the new situation both to understand the great need now for funds and how these funds can be obtained from the working class itself.

The final months of Lenin's life were devoted to a bitter struggle against the growing bureaucracy in the state apparatus of the Soviet Union and its representatives within the leadership of the Russian Communist Party.

In the course of this struggle, by late 1922, Lenin identified Stalin as the leader of this bureaucratic strata within the party. As he fought Stalin, Lenin turned to Trotsky for political support.

Trotsky and other Bolsheviks who formed the Left Opposition acted under the influence of Lenin's last struggle. It was in the fight against bureaucracy that the Left Opposition established the continuity of the Marxist movement after Lenin's death.

Lenin's struggle against Stalin was the culmination of a long fight in which the Bolshevik leader had grappled with the problem of bureaucratism, which emerged out of the backward conditions of Russia and the delay in the proletarian revolution in the advanced industrial countries of Western Europe.

While recognizing that the bureaucracy was the material expression of Russia's backwardness and that it had developed not by accident nor bad intentions, Lenin sought at every point to bring the working class forward against this bureaucracy.

This required a theoretical struggle within the party itself against those who reflected in their thinking and practice the pressures of the bureaucracy and the middle class in Russia, thus keeping their distance from the working class and allowing the bureaucracy to dominate the life of the country.

In this process, the party, as part of the working class, consciously conflicts with its spontaneous level of thinking to train the leadership to defend the interests of the proletariat against bureaucracy.

## Objective Roots

This is how Lenin proceeded in the final months of his life. He recognized the objective social roots of bureaucratism, but did not for one moment see the triumph of bureaucracy as inevitable.

Those who argue that the victory of Stalin in the 1920s and 1930s was inevitable because of "objective" conditions actually eliminate from history, from the class struggle, the decisive role of consciousness. This position was popularized by Isaac Deutscher in his three part biography of Leon Trotsky.

Deutscher saw Trotsky's fight against Stalin as hopeless because conditions were unfavorable. He based this position on the view that objective conditions mechanically and automatically are reflected in thinking without contradiction.

Lenin, on the other hand, maintained that the spontaneous thinking of the working class is a product of capitalist society. However, through the revolutionary party, constructed on the basis of the scientific Marxist theory of socialism, the working class becomes conscious of the contradictions of class society and its own interests, and fights these contradictions out consciously.

In this way, Lenin sought to bring forward the great strength of the working class in Russia against bureaucracy, for its strength was also based on objective factors: its conquest of state power, the international crisis of capitalism, the movement of the working class internationally, and the spontaneous movement of Russian workers against bureaucracy.

Furthermore, Lenin did not see the struggle against bureaucracy within the Soviet Union as simply a national question. He never separated the development of the first workers' state from the fate of the world revolutionary movement. Much of Lenin's time after the seizure of power in October 1917 was spent in the arduous work of building the Third Communist International.

Congresses were held in Moscow annually beginning in 1919. Lenin not only made reports on the policies of the Russian party as a section subordinate to the world movement, but he and Trotsky fought to arm the young Communist Parties of Europe, Asia, and the United States with the rich experience of the Bolshevik Party.

The construction of socialism depended, according to Lenin, on the victory of the social revolution in several advanced countries. It was only after Lenin's death that Stalin, reflecting the nationalist, middle class pressures of the bureaucracy, advanced the theory of socialism in one country.

As Lenin fought for the development of the Comintern, he struggled within the Russian party against a strata led by Stalin, which reflected the pressures of the bureaucracy, in order to defend the interests of the working class under the difficult objective conditions, preparing all the time for the next revolutionary upsurge when a change in the objective conditions would allow for a real defeat of the bureaucracy.

## Conflict

The struggle within the party was necessarily intensified during the period of the New Economic Policy (NEP), when middle class social forces such as the rich peasantry and the small capitalist merchants (NEP-men) were strengthened.

Lenin demanded that party members consciously conflict with these forces. In one incident, he accused a leading Bolshevik on the Peoples' Commissariat of Justice of "swimming with the tide" by failing to prosecute vigorously the tendency of the state apparatus to adapt to the growth of the NEP-men. The task of the party, he declared, "is to swim against the tide." (Vol. 36, p. 562)

The conflict with Stalin arose because he, while holding positions of considerable importance within the party and the state apparatus, became increasingly dominated by the pressures of the bureaucracy in his methods.

Stalin came to consider the question of socialist policy within the Soviet Union as an administrative question, best carried out with orders as well as petty wheeling and dealing with the wealthy peasants and NEP-men. He saw no need to actually develop workers and young communists through a theoretical struggle that would enable the party to maintain a tight control over its apparatus as a strong Marxist leadership emerged from the working class itself.

Therefore, Stalin came to oppose every attempt by Lenin to bring the working class into the party and leading positions in the state apparatus; rather, he saw Lenin's proposals as a burden on the day to day work of the bureaucratic machine which Stalin administered.

As early as 1920, Lenin had proposed the creation of a Workers and Peasants Inspection—composed of factory workers and poor peasants—as a check on the "bureaucratic ulcer" which he already detected in the Soviet state. However, in August 1922, Lenin declared that his "questioning of Stalin" convinced him that the Workers and Peasants Inspection had not been given adequate responsibilities.

Lenin's disagreements with Stalin grew sharper over fundamental issues of Soviet policy that emerged in 1922. Having suffered his first stroke in May of that year, Lenin's direct participation in the direction of the party was diminished.

## Foreign Trade

During Lenin's absence from the Central Committee, the leading body of the party, Stalin pressed for the partial abolition of a monopoly of foreign trade. This meant that the wealthy peasants and capitalist merchants, already strengthened by the NEP, would be able to sell their produce to the international market and establish direct links with the foreign imperialists. Inevitably, this would undermine Soviet industry while forging links between the Kulaks and world capitalism.

This development brought home very sharply to Lenin the danger to the Soviet state posed by the bureaucratic tendency in the party. He had to confront a situation in which the Central Committee of the revolutionary party had made a fundamental concession to capitalist forces that could lead to the destruction of the Soviet Union if not immediately reversed.

As far as Stalin was concerned, the concession on the monopoly of foreign trade was a practical solution to the demand of the Kulaks for an outlet for the produce at good prices. The NEP, which Lenin and Trotsky had introduced two years earlier as a sharp shift in policy to meet an emergency situation caused by the catastrophic conditions of the Civil War, had become for Stalin a time-honored routine.

Approaching questions of policy from the standpoint of the bureaucracy itself, Stalin did not seek to consciously posit every new feature of the economy and political events against the experience gained by the party during the NEP, and in this way be able to confront the dangers raised by the shifts in



## 50th Anniversary of the Fourth

class forces that made, by 1923, further concessions to the Kulak harmful to the workers state.

Stalin did not conflict with the bureaucracy, but carried the methods of the bureaucracy itself into the Central Committee which passed his motion on the foreign trade monopoly. In this way, he became the vehicle of hostile class forces.

Lenin immediately began a campaign to reverse the decision, and turned—as he would again and again during the last months of his political life—to Trotsky.

"At any rate," Lenin wrote to Trotsky on December 13, 1922, "it is my request that you should undertake the defense of our common standpoint on the unquestionable need to maintain and consolidate the foreign trade monopoly... that in the event of our defeat on this question we must refer the question to a party congress." (Vol. 45, p. 601)

Lenin then warned Stalin: "I am now through with putting my business in order, and am in a position to leave without worry. I have come to an agreement with Trotsky to stand up for my views of the foreign trade monopoly... I am sure that Trotsky will be able to stand up for my views just as well as I myself." (Vol. 45, p. 602-3)

Another note was sent by Lenin to Trotsky: "I consider that we have quite reached agreement. I ask you to declare our solidarity at the plenum." (Vol. 45, p. 604)

Lenin and Trotsky were able to win a reversal of the foreign trade decision. However, Lenin had concluded that the issue of the monopoly raised the question of the political degeneration of sections of the party leadership. For this reason, Lenin proposed to Trotsky that they maintain their principled alliance, writing:

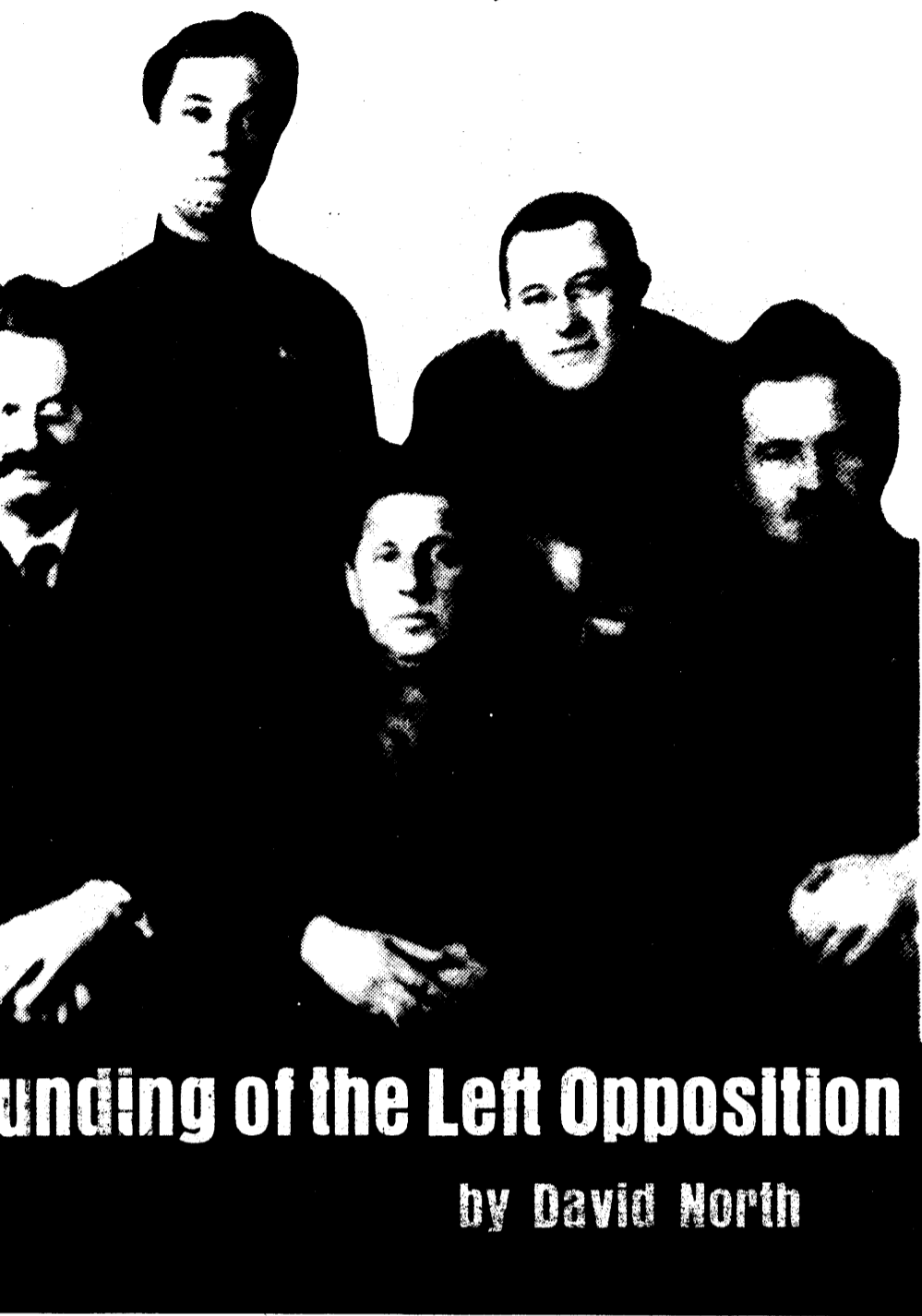
"I suggest that we should not stop and should continue the offensive, and for that purpose put through a motion to raise at the party congress the question of consolidating our foreign trade, and the measures to improve its implementation." (Vol. 45, p. 606)

The struggle over the monopoly was immediately followed by another issue that revealed the extent of bureaucratic decay of a section of the party, and led to a complete break between Lenin and Stalin.

As Commissar of Nationalities, Stalin had the responsibility of facilitating the unification of the Georgian Republic with the Soviet Union. Lenin had made it abundantly clear that this work could be only done with the greatest patience and consideration for the nationalist sentiments of the Geor-



Lenin convalescing in Gorki in 1922.



## Founding of the Left Opposition

by David North

Georgians, who had been treated by the tsarist autocracy as an oppressed nation.

However, Stalin proceeded to defy Lenin and ignore the democratic right of the Georgian people to self-determination. He employed bureaucratic ruthlessness to bring about unification and acted in utter



contempt toward the Georgian communist leadership.

All the nationalist prejudices of the vast Russian middle class were reflected in Stalin's action. The political complexion of the bureaucrat—eager to jump over problems, looking for a practical solution—was revealed as Stalin came into collision with the principled Marxist position on the right of oppressed nations to self-determination.

This hostility to the Georgians was symptomatic of a class position against proletarian internationalism that later was openly expressed in the theory of socialism in one country. Just as the tsarist bureaucracy sent its rude satraps into the provinces to order the minority workers and peasants about, Stalin abused Georgian leaders and, in one instance, S. Orjonikidze, Stalin's right-hand man, physically assaulted a Georgian communist in the course of a political disagreement.

This action was without precedent in the entire history of the Bolshevik Party. Lenin was outraged when he heard of it and decided to move for Orjonikidze's expulsion from the party. At the same time, he opened up a bitter political fight against Stalin.

The documents of this struggle are now available in the current Moscow edition of Lenin, *Collected Works*. All the statements by Lenin which appear in this article are quoted from Soviet sources. Many of these statements are taken from articles which were suppressed by Stalin and his heirs for as long as 40 years.

The American Communist Party, the accomplice in Stalin's bloodiest crimes, has not taken any note of these documents which shatter the mountain of falsification upon which the Stalinist version of history rests. It has refused to retract its monstrous slanders against Trotsky.

Lenin expressed his "greatest apprehensions" in a memorandum written on December 30, 1922: "If matters had come to such a pass that Orjonikidze could go to the extreme of applying physical violence, as Comrade Dzerzhinsky informed me, we can imagine what a mess we have got ourselves into." (Vol. 36, p. 605)

Lenin pointed to the influence of the

bureaucratic apparatus over the party as the social root of the degeneration expressed in Stalin and Orjonikidze.

"But now, we must, in all conscience, admit...the apparatus we call ours is, in fact, still quite alien to us; it is a bourgeois and tsarist hotchpotch and there has been no possibility of getting rid of it in the course of the past five years without the help of other countries and because we have been 'busy' most of the time with military engagements and the fight against famine." (Vol. 36, p. 606)

## Nationalism

Then, Lenin assessed Stalin's role in Georgia as that of "that really Russian man, the Great-Russian chauvinist, in substance a rascal and a tyrant, such as the typical Russian bureaucrat is." Emphasizing these points, he warned of the tide of "chauvinist Great-Russian riffraff" that engulfed the Georgian workers. (Vol. 36, p. 606)

He added: "I think that Stalin's haste and his infatuation with pure administration, together with his spite against the notorious 'nationalist-socialism,' played a fatal role here. In politics, spite generally plays the basest of roles." (Vol. 36, p. 606)

Motivating Lenin's irreconcilable political hostility toward Stalin was the fact that the latter had violated "an important question of principle: how is internationalism to be understood?" (Vol. 36, p. 607)

Lenin directed still another blow against Stalin for having contemptuously referred to the legitimate national strivings of the Georgian workers as "nationalist-socialism." The fact that Stalin was himself a Georgian made his actions even more contemptible in the eyes of Lenin, who wrote:

"The Georgian who...carelessly flings about accusations of 'nationalist-socialism' (whereas he himself is a real and true 'nationalist-socialist,' and even a vulgar Great-Russian bully), violates in substance, the interests of proletarian class solidarity..." (Vol. 36, p. 608)

Declaring: "The political responsibility for all this truly Great Russian nationalist campaign must, of course, be laid on Stalin and Dzerzhinsky," Lenin accused them of lapsing "into imperialist attitudes toward oppressed nationalities, thus undermining all our principled sincerity, all our principled defense of the struggle against imperialism." (Vol. 36, p. 610)

## Intolerable

Within a week of having penned these lines, Lenin made the following recommendation in his Testament: "Stalin is too rude and this defect, although quite tolerable in our midst and in dealings among us Communists, becomes quite intolerable in a Secretary-General. That is why I suggest that the comrades think about a way of removing Stalin from that post and appointing another man in his stead who in all respects differs from Comrade Stalin in having only one advantage, namely, that of being more tolerant, more loyal, more polite, and more considerate to the comrades, less capricious, etc." (Vol. 36, p. 596)

Lenin waged this struggle under the enormous physical handicap of partial paralysis that temporarily affected his powers of speech. There can be no doubt that the fight against Stalin took a heavy toll on his health.

For example, Lenin's secretary, L. A. Fotieva, made the following entry in her journal of February 14, 1923 after taking dictation:

"(Lenin) Called me again. Impediment in speech, obviously tired. Spoke again on the three points of his instructions. In special detail on the subject that agitated him most of all, namely, the Georgian question. Asked to hurry things up. Gave certain instructions." (Vol. 42, p. 493)

Only several days before the final breakdown in Lenin's health, a new flareup in the Georgian question occurred. Lenin sent the following top secret note to Trotsky: "It is my urgent request that you should undertake the defense of the Georgian case in the Party C.C. This case is now under 'persecution' by Stalin and Dzerzhinsky, and I cannot rely on their impartiality. Quite to the contrary. I would feel at ease if you agreed to undertake its defense." (Vol. 45, p. 607)

## Proposals

Measures were proposed by Lenin to counter the influence of the bureaucracy by strengthening the proletarian cadres of the party. The Workers and Peasants Inspection was to be revived and merged with the enlarged Central Control Commission in order to prepare a big shakeup of the state apparatus.

But Lenin's proposals, outlined in his last major article, "Better Fewer, But Better," were not confined to organizational measures. He saw the raising of the cultural and theoretical level of the party as the decisive question:

"In order to renovate our state apparatus we must at all costs set out, first, to learn, secondly, to learn, and thirdly, to learn, and then to see to it that learning shall not remain a dead letter; or a fashionable catchphrase (and we should admit in all frankness that this happens very often to us), that learning shall really become part of our very being, that it shall actually and fully become a constituent element of our social life." (Vol. 33, p. 488-9)

Lenin posed the necessity of the theoretical development of the party and the training of Marxists from among the factory workers, poor peasants, and communist youth.

The very conditions of backwardness from which the bureaucracy emerged were reflected in the thinking of the working class. Only through a conflict with its spontaneous thinking, by training sections of the proletariat and youth as Marxists, could the working class be brought forward against the bureaucracy and exercise its dictatorship.

## Achievement

This is what Lenin fought for, and the success or failure of the fight could not be determined in advance but only in the course of the struggle itself.

The great achievement of Lenin in this final struggle was that he charted the course which made it possible for Trotsky and the Left Opposition to defend Marxism against the bureaucracy. Trotsky had to take up this fight after Lenin was removed by illness and death from the political scene under conditions when Marxism could develop only against the tide of objective difficulties.

In the course of this fight, the Left Opposition actually brought forward a movement within the Russian working class in 1926-27 against the bureaucracy to which Stalin responded desperately with police repression and mass expulsions.

The very fact that Trotsky's struggle against the bureaucracy led—in spite of repression, banishment, and murder—to the greatest enrichment of Marxist theory and laid the foundation for the construction of the Fourth International as a mass party in the current period totally vindicates Trotsky. In the historical sense, Marxism proved victorious over Stalinism revisionism.

Trotsky himself answered the skeptics and pessimists of Deutscher's ilk at a more advanced stage of the struggle, when Stalin's betrayal had already led to crushing defeats that further weakened the working class:

"Is the situation hopeless? Such words are not part of our vocabulary. Struggle will decide. On the side of the proletarian revolution are many negative historical possibilities: the horrible decay of capitalism, the furious conflict among the imperialists, the bankruptcy of reformism; as well as positive ones: tempered cadres of Bolshevik-Leninists, an understanding of the course of developments, a clear perspective.

"Struggle will decide. It is absolutely beyond question that the danger has grown and come nearer. But the poison of Thermidor carries in itself also the elements of the antidote. The closer and more immediate the danger, the stronger grows the necessity for resistance. The more the bureaucracy loses its head and the more the omnipotence of the Stalinist clique is shown to be fictitious, the more loudly will the advanced workers demand a Bolshevik leadership."

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE



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But Lenin's proposals, outlined in his last major article, "Better Fewer, But Better," were not confined to organizational measures. He saw the raising of the cultural and theoretical level of the party as the decisive question:

"In order to renovate our state apparatus we must at all costs set out, first, to learn, secondly, to learn, and thirdly, to learn, and then to see to it that learning shall not remain a dead letter; or a fashionable catchphrase (and we should admit in all frankness that this happens very often to us), that learning shall really become part of our very being, that it shall actually and fully become a constituent element of our social life." (Vol. 33, p. 488-9)

Lenin posed the necessity of the theoretical development of the party and the training of Marxists from among the factory workers, poor peasants, and communist youth.

The very conditions of backwardness from which the bureaucracy emerged were reflected in the thinking of the working class. Only through a conflict with its spontaneous thinking, by training sections of the proletariat and youth as Marxists, could the working class be brought forward against the bureaucracy and exercise its dictatorship.

## Achievement

This is what Lenin fought for, and the success or failure of the fight could not be determined in advance but only in the course of the struggle itself.

The great achievement of Lenin in this final struggle was that he charted the course which made it possible for Trotsky and the Left Opposition to defend Marxism against the bureaucracy. Trotsky had to take up this fight after Lenin was removed by illness and death from the political scene under conditions when Marxism could develop only against the tide of objective difficulties.

In the course of this fight, the Left Opposition actually brought forward a movement within the Russian working class in 1926-27 against the bureaucracy to which Stalin responded desperately with police repression and mass expulsions.

The very fact that Trotsky's struggle against the bureaucracy led—in spite of repression, banishment, and murder—to the greatest enrichment of Marxist theory and laid the foundation for the construction of the Fourth International as a mass party in the current period totally vindicates Trotsky. In the historical sense, Marxism proved victorious over Stalinism revisionism.

Trotsky himself answered the skeptics and pessimists of Deutscher's ilk at a more advanced stage of the struggle, when Stalin's betrayal had already led to crushing defeats that further weakened the working class:

"Is the situation hopeless? Such words are not part of our vocabulary. Struggle will decide. On the side of the proletarian revolution are many negative historical possibilities: the horrible decay of capitalism, the furious conflict among the imperialists, the bankruptcy of reformism; as well as positive ones: tempered cadres of Bolshevik-Leninists, an understanding of the course of developments, a clear perspective.

"Struggle will decide. It is absolutely beyond question that the danger has grown and come nearer. But the poison of Thermidor carries in itself also the elements of the antidote. The closer and more immediate the danger, the stronger grows the necessity for resistance. The more the bureaucracy loses its head and the more the omnipotence of the Stalinist clique is shown to be fictitious, the more loudly will the advanced workers demand a Bolshevik leadership."

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

The final months of Lenin's life were devoted to a bitter struggle against the growing bureaucracy in the state apparatus of the Soviet Union and its representatives within the leadership of the Russian Communist Party.

In the course of this struggle, by late 1922, Lenin identified Stalin as the leader of this bureaucratic strata within the party. As he fought Stalin, Lenin turned to Trotsky for political support.

Trotsky and other Bolsheviks who formed the Left Opposition acted under the influence of Lenin's last struggle. It was in the fight against bureaucracy that the Left Opposition established the continuity of the Marxist movement after Lenin's death.

Lenin's struggle against Stalin was the culmination of a long fight in which the Bolshevik leader had grappled with the problem of bureaucratism, which emerged out of the backward conditions of Russia and the delay in the proletarian revolution in the advanced industrial countries of Western Europe.

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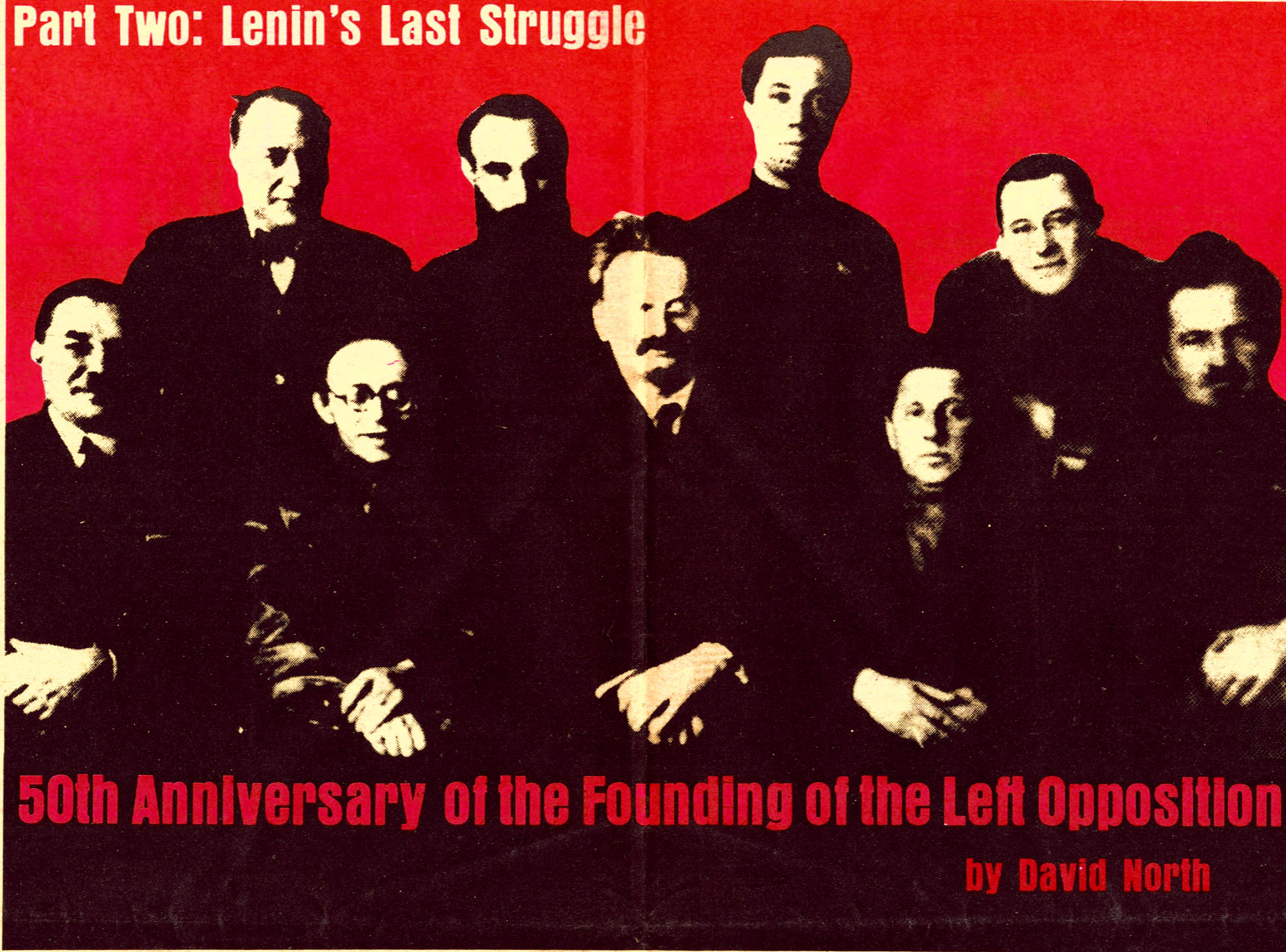
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Measures were proposed by Lenin to counter the influence of the bureaucracy by strengthening the proletarian cadres of the party. The Workers and Peasants Inspection was to be revived and merged with the enlarged Central Control Commission in order to prepare a big shakeup of the state apparatus.

But Lenin's proposals, outlined in his last major article, "Better Fewer, But Better," were not confined to organizational measures. He saw the raising of the cultural and theoretical level of the party as the decisive question:

"In order to renovate our state apparatus we must at all costs set out, first, to learn, secondly, to learn, and thirdly, to learn, and then to see to it that learning shall not remain a dead letter; or a fashionable catchphrase (and we should admit in all frankness that this happens very often to us), that learning shall really become part of our very being, that it shall actually and fully become a constituent element of our social life." (Vol. 33, p. 488-9)

Lenin posed the necessity of the theoretical development of the party and the training of Marxists from among the factory workers, poor peasants, and communist youth.

The very conditions of backwardness from which the bureaucracy emerged were reflected in the thinking of the working class. Only through a conflict with its spontaneous thinking, by training sections of the proletariat and youth as Marxists, could the working class be brought forward against the bureaucracy and exercise its dictatorship.

## Achievement

This is what Lenin fought for, and the success or failure of the fight could not be determined in advance but only in the course of the struggle itself.

The great achievement of Lenin in this final struggle was that he charted the course which made it possible for Trotsky and the Left Opposition to defend Marxism against the bureaucracy. Trotsky had to take up this fight after Lenin was removed by illness and death from the political scene under conditions when Marxism could develop only against the tide of objective difficulties.

In the course of this fight, the Left Opposition actually brought forward a movement within the Russian working class in 1926-27 against the bureaucracy to which Stalin responded desperately with police repression and mass expulsions.

The very fact that Trotsky's struggle against the bureaucracy led—in spite of repression, banishment, and murder—to the greatest enrichment of Marxist theory and laid the foundation for the construction of the Fourth International as a mass party in the current period totally vindicates Trotsky. In the historical sense, Marxism proved victorious over Stalinism revisionism.

Trotsky himself answered the skeptics and pessimists of Deutscher's ilk at a more advanced stage of the struggle, when Stalin's betrayal had already led to crushing defeats that further weakened the working class:

"Is the situation hopeless? Such words are not part of our vocabulary. Struggle will decide. On the side of the proletarian revolution are many negative historical possibilities: the horrible decay of capitalism, the furious conflict among the imperialists, the bankruptcy of reformism; as well as positive ones: tempered cadres of Bolshevik-Leninists, an understanding of the course of developments, a clear perspective." (Vol. 42, p. 493)

"Struggle will decide. It is absolutely beyond question that the danger has grown and come nearer. But the poison of Thermidor carries in itself also the elements of the antidote. The closer and more immediate the danger, the stronger grows the necessity for resistance. The more the bureaucracy loses its head and the more the omnipotence of the Stalinist clique is shown to be fictitious, the more loudly will the advanced workers demand a Bolshevik leadership."

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

# LABOR TODAY

## SWP Endorses Labor Reformism

Several articles in the **Bulletin**, on November 27 and 30, took up the role of middle class radicalism and the protest policies of the Chavez leadership in disarming the fight of the farmworkers.

The December 21 issue of **The Militant**, weekly paper of the Socialist Workers Party, contains an attack on these articles by Miguel Pendas which not only confirms everything we wrote, but reveals how rapidly the SWP is turning towards open support to the union bureaucracy.

Pendas attacks the **Bulletin** for criticizing the boycott and sneers at our insistence that the fight to defend the UFWU requires going beyond trade unionism to a political fight for power.

Instead of the conscious struggle to build a Marxist leadership, Pendas advocates a fight for reform. The leadership will simply develop from this. "Masses of people will develop political consciousness of the need for revolutionary change and for a program and leadership to accomplish this change, only in the course of struggles around immediate problems."

The **Bulletin** articles were particularly aimed at exposing the reactionary role of the boycott as a diversion, used consciously by Cesar Chavez to prevent the real strength of the farm workers from being mobilized through strike action in the fields and a political fight against the government.

The boycott has always been used by the farmworkers' leadership as a means of pressure. In particular, it is seen as a tactic to win middle class support and create newspaper publicity in order to exert pressure on the capitalist state, through the Democratic Party, to intervene in favor of the farm workers.

Since we wrote these articles, the bankruptcy of such a policy has become even more apparent. Prices are skyrocketing. Using the oil crisis, the government has gone over directly to a policy of seeking to break the strength of the labor movement by bringing in mass unemployment.

Under these conditions, the labor movement is faced with the necessity for political power. Only a fight for a labor party, based on socialist policies can resolve the crisis and defend the basic needs of the working class.

The wildcats of carpenters on the West Coast, and of the Teamsters against government fuel policies are the first signs of a growing rank and file movement of the working class against Nixon.

It is in this situation that a revolutionary leadership must be constructed in the labor movement to direct the struggle into a political fight for power.

The farm workers' struggle can only be conducted today in a fight to strike the fields, to mobilize labor to refuse to touch scab produce, to raise funds and to defend the pickets against attack.

At the same time, farm workers must press beyond the strike, and raise the call for a Congress of Labor to unite all the unions in action against Nixon and for the construction of a labor party.

It is this political fight that Chavez and his ally, United Mine Workers President Arnold Miller, oppose. Chavez has openly called for Gerald Ford to replace Nixon, while Miller opposed a resolution for Nixon's impeachment at the recent UMW convention.

The breakup of the middle class protest movement and the movement of the working class now sends the SWP running to the labor bureaucracy to assist them in holding back a political development.

Thus Pendas advocates not a political policy for the farm workers, but more pressure, a boycott "on a much bigger scale," "larger picket lines at supermarkets."

Where even Chavez has been forced to threaten new strikes, Pendas opposes this, claiming that "farm workers must rely to a great extent on a boycott because of the difficulty of carrying out agricultural strikes under present conditions."

Reliance on these boycotts alone has cost farm workers virtually every contract. Even those who just boycott are facing injunctions, beatings and mass arrests.

The SWP not only advocates more of the same, but lines up to defend Chavez and to actually oppose a strike movement in the fields.

Chavez and Miller represent that section of the labor bureaucracy closest to the liberal Democrats. The SWP praises Chavez for his boycott and Miller as an advocate of democracy in the UMW.

Thus, the SWP joins with the Stalinist Communist Party in supporting the "progressive" section of the labor bureaucracy. They assist the Stalinists in tying the working class through the bureaucracy to reformism and the Democratic Party.

Today it is the fight of the Workers League for Marxism in the unions that forces the SWP to attack the **Bulletin**.

by jeff sebastian

# Teamsters Wildcat Pittsburgh Papers

BY A REPORTER

PITTSBURGH—Seven hundred members of Teamsters Local 211 representing truck drivers and handlers staged a walkout last Thursday at the Pittsburgh Press Company and shut down both the **Pittsburgh Press** and the **Post Gazette**, the city's two largest newspapers.

The leadership of Local 211 called off the walkout the next day and agreed to collective bargaining sessions in Washington, DC.

The walkout centered on two main issues: job security and wages. Though Local 211 had directed its membership to report to work "on a day to day basis," already they are prepared to sell out the ranks over these two issues.

The Pittsburgh Press Company is introducing automated equipment, trying to speed up the printing press and eliminate many jobs, especially those carried out by platform men.

The **Bulletin** talked to some workers Friday who were assembled outside the Press waiting to hear if the strike was to become official or if they were to return to work.

"The Press did not try and negotiate," said one worker. He thought the Press would try to sneak in the automated equipment. But unlike the last strike of two years ago, "no outside papers would be left in and the equipment will not be allowed in."

Another worker commented on the vital issue of job security

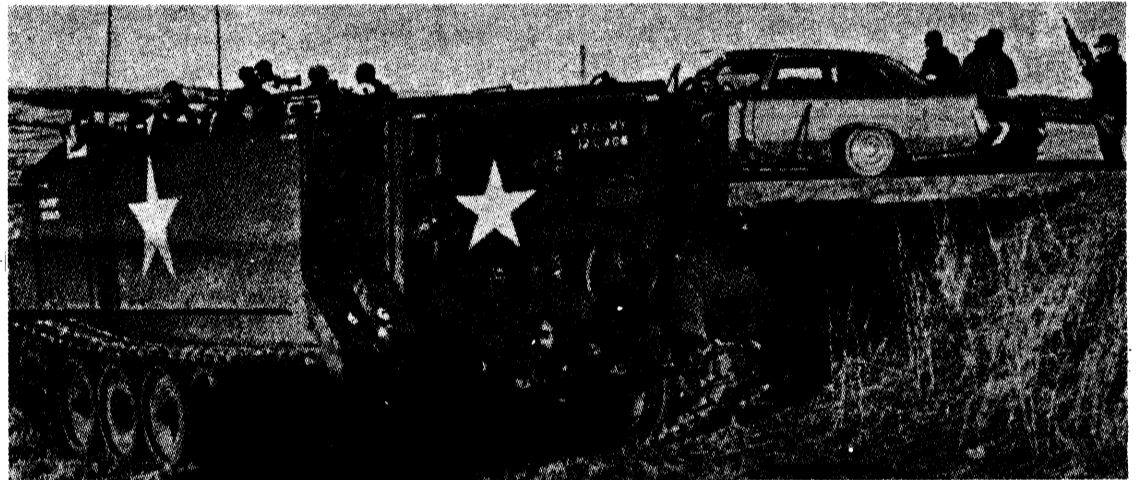
and its relationship to the government's attacks on the working class.

"Try to help America—the oil companies are using this help America to attack labor. These guys do not know what the word America means. It means standing on a picket line trying to make a few bucks just to survive.

"We are looking for job security. I have got four kids and a family to support. Now I come to work and they tell me they do not need me any more. Where is a man of forty or forty-five going to find another job?"

To protect jobs against automation and the workers' standard of living against inflation, a contract must be ratified which guarantees that not one man lose his job and provides a decent wage increase.

# Police State Atmosphere At Wounded Knee Trial



BY A REPORTER

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The trial of two leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM) Dennis Banks and Clyde Bellecourt opened in federal court here on January 8.

The trial is part of a massive witch-hunt in retaliation for the occupation by militant Indians of the Pine Ridge trading post at Wounded Knee, South Dakota last February against the conditions of poverty and racism.

A police state atmosphere has



Top: Army tanks move into occupied Wounded Knee. Above: Dennis Banks.

been deliberately created in the courtroom to prejudice the jury.

Each person entering the room is first frisked and searched, to make it appear that the defendants and their supporters would attack the judge or jury.

Few visitors were allowed to enter and over 40 journalists were barred for "lack of space."

Banks and Bellecourt face a 10 count conspiracy indictment. In February and March, four other Indians face similar charges in St. Paul and 110 will go to trial in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on felony charges.

At a mass rally the night before the trial, thousands of youth gave Banks thunderous applause when he charged that the real criminals were the politicians in Washington.

The government is going all-out to wipe out any militant leadership among the Indians. Over 400 people face imprisonment.

HARASSED

Since Wounded Knee, Indian people have been harassed, jailed, and beaten by the police. Carter Camp, national chairman of the American Indian Movement says that Pedro Bissonette was recently killed in cold blood. He was to be the Indians' chief defense witness.

The government follows a deliberate policy of keeping the unemployment rate high among Indian youth. It is already 80 percent, in order to keep unions out of the towns and cities in the area and to depress the wages of all workers.

# Milwaukee Ranks Reject Compromise

MILWAUKEE, Wisc.—Milwaukee sewerage workers refused to compromise their demands for a 25 percent increase in wages and benefits.

A strike vote was authorized for Local 366 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Monday, December 31, the day before the contract expired. The city is still offering only 3 percent.

John Redlich, spokesman for the union stated: "If we go on strike, I think the public should know the city just does not give a damn."

No union action was taken as of January 2. A ban on overtime

has been discussed as a way to pressure the city. The processing of sewerage into "Milorganite," a fertilizer, nets the city thousands of dollars a day. Its production would halt without overtime work.

Since the sewer workers struck the city for twelve hours last March, the management supervisory personnel have undergone an intense training program and are prepared to scab if there is a strike.

Montier, spokesman for the city has called the union demands an "attempt to take over the management of the Sewerage Commission" and absolutely refuses to increase the union's pay more than 3 percent.

# Truckers Vote New Strike

**BY LOUIS MARTIN  
COLUMBUS, Ohio**—Representatives of about 36,000 independent truck drivers unanimously approved a proposed January 24 shutdown for as long as necessary at a meeting held here December 29.

The meeting called by the Owners and Drivers Club of Ohio (ODCO) included members from the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers (FASH) and the National Council of Independent Truckers (NCIT).

The truckers, fed up with government promises and excuses, have vowed to pull every independent off the road. They hope to be joined by company drivers as well.

On January 7, George Rynn, secretary of ODCO told the Bulletin the organization expects to have 48,000 drivers behind them January 14. "We don't expect to get anything but promises from the government.

"We are not too concerned about the speed limit and citizen banned radios," he said, speaking about the 10 points the drivers presented to the government.

"One of the things the drivers will fight is the increase in gasoline and home heating oil prices. We are going to ask for a ceiling on those."

## INFLATIONARY

He also termed the rate hike offered by the government unsatisfactory and inflationary and said it would do no one any good. The hike would be made in proportion to rises in the cost of living.

Brainhoffer told the Bulletin that teamsters were sitting back watching. "They cannot walk out," he said, however, "they could help us a lot more than they are doing." The Teamsters are fearful of lawsuits against unauthorized walkouts and are doing nothing to actively help the independents. "We have no money," Rynn said, "and only six persons work with the organization at this time. We need all the help we can get."

During the December 29 meeting, Dock Holder, presi-

dent of the NCIT of Columbus urged members to keep this thing going.

He added: "The blockades are a good example of what unity can bring. Do not drop the ball now while you have what might be your last chance to gain your rights, sustain business, and make a living."

## SUPPORT

Charles Bellegrino, editor of *Owner-Operator*, an independent drivers magazine, said that the organization could count on the support of the Florida Truckers Association, Midwest Truckers Association, and the Pennsylvania Truckers Association.

At the meeting Rynn declared:

"Ask my drivers if the new shutdown would permit the re-occurrence of windshield breakage by highway patrolmen," and shouted, "Hell no!" to applause and cheers.

The prime goal of the new truckers organization is to form a national association of independent truckers to deal with the federal and state agents.

According to the president of

ODCO: "We're going to make the government agencies sit up and take notice."

## SHUTDOWNS

Truckers also say that this time the company drivers will join owner-operators in the shutdowns. Vince Morris, a driver added: "We the truckers blame a lot of our problems on Nixon, but we cannot blame it entirely on one person.

"We blame it on the government in general. Nixon can sign a bill, but the Congress can override it."

Morris said: "We do not want to take militant action, but if some drivers keep running during the shutdown, there is going to be trouble."

The drivers took six weeks to comply with the 55 mile per hour speed limit. Refusal to comply will mean that the state will face discontinuance of federal highway funds.

Truck drivers are asking for a nationwide 65 mile per hour limit during hours of between 10 pm and 6 am. Other drivers are demanding a nationwide 62 miles per hour at all hours.

# Court Rescues Chicago Cops

**CHICAGO**—In a landmark ruling, an appeals court panel overturned the first big convictions in a series of extortion trials against Chicago policemen.

The court reversed the conviction of former patrolman James Pacente, ruling that to go on trial for extortion and perjury at the same time is prejudicial to the defendant. The panel said that the jury would distrust the defendant, knowing that the grand jury had felt there were sufficient grounds for the perjury charge.

This decision could also overthrow the major convictions that have come out of the prosecution of Captain Clarence Braasch and 17 men who worked under him in the East Chicago Avenue police district. They were convicted on the same charges of extortion and perjury.

## LARGEST

Braasch is the highest ranking Chicago policeman ever convicted of a federal crime. The trial, which involves 23 defendants, was the largest single trial ever in the Federal District Court here.

During the trials of Pacente, Braasch, dozens of tavern owners, and many former policemen described the "vice squad" collectors' steady campaign of shake-downs which brought in \$100 to \$200 a month from each bar.

Braasch's coordinator, Sergeant Edward Berry, who was also convicted, was in charge of the vice unit supposed to supervise tavern shake-down operations.

Captain Jerome J. Callahan will stand trial for his shake-down operations in the town hall district following the trial of Captain Mark Phanasouras and 13 of his subordinates in the Austin District.

Police Superintendent James B. Conlisk, Jr. has been swept

out of office by these massive indictments.

Massive reorganization is now being carried out by James Roachford, the acting police superintendent. He will rely on the most modern techniques of computerized information and psychological training to develop a new police force.

## IMAGE

Rochford immediately launched a program of lie detector tests of 65 top police officials to establish an image of honesty. But when many of them failed the test, he refused to disclose which would be retested. He said he would personally interview anyone who could not pass the lie test but would never make public the information.

Rochford has launched a program against brutality in the department designed to head off a drive for a civilian review board. The center of the reorganization is the Internal Affairs Division (IAD), the department's self-investigatory agency which has refused to review most complaints.

Rochford immediately recruited for a new squad of undercover cops to the IAD to watch the cops themselves. One of these men was arrested during a drug bust only two weeks after the program was set up, and now claims he was "testing" the officer who arrested him.

## ROTATED

Rochford has announced that every sergeant in the department will be rotated into the IAD for a two month training period. He says this will train people in the district stations to uncover corrupt practices themselves.

In reality, it will create a force of men trained in the most modern intelligence methods to function on the city's tactical unit which includes specialists in gang intelligence and members of the former Red Squad.



Tim Wohlforth addresses an audience of trade unionists and youth at a class entitled "What Is To Be Done Today" in Minneapolis.

# Students Back YS At Minnesota U

BY A REPORTER

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.**—A pre-hearing conference was held January 4 in the University of Minnesota's witch-hunt to expel the Young Socialists from the campus.

This is the university's response to the campaign waged by the YS and Arab students in defense of the Arab revolution. During the campaign, YS members and Arab students were constantly harassed and threatened by Zionist supporters. A known disrupter on campus, S.D. Lipshitz, a South African Zionist, attempted to break into one of the meetings called by the YS.

The YS was put under investigation and now face hearings because they defended their meeting.

An Arab student addressed the conference, saying: "I move that this case be dismissed because clearly, it is the university who has filed the complaint, the university that is prosecuting it, and the university that judges the case."

The motion was denied by Professor Clausen, chairman of the committee.

"I would like to know if all

complaints are followed up on. I have filed several against the tendency Mr. Lipshitz is a member of, and nothing have ever happened with them. I cannot help but think that this is not a coincidence," an Arab student charged.

Kathleen Megarry of the Young Socialists declared:

"The right of students to hold political meetings and have political discussions is not being upheld by the university—that is a fraud. During the Cambodian invasion demonstration here, police dressed as students were allowed to mace and club the students.

"It is these elements, and the secret government policies exposed in Watergate that the university defends."

Professor Clausen told the group he wanted to make it clear that if the defense raised any political questions at the hearing, they would be ruled out of order.

"I think it is pretty clear what they are trying to do—get the YS off campus," said Kay Hayeden, a student.

The hearing has been scheduled for Friday, January 18. The Young Socialists calls upon all students to join this campaign and defend the YS.

## YOUNG SOCIALIST REGIONAL CONFERENCES

\$2 Conference & Dance

All conferences begin at noon

Speakers: Tim Wohlforth, Workers League National Secretary, Adele Sinclair, Young Socialist editor.

## MIDWEST

**MADISON**  
(Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, St. Paul)  
SAT., JAN. 26  
Univ. of Wisconsin  
YMCA  
306 North Brooks  
608-251-7622

**CLEVELAND**  
(Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Dayton, Detroit)  
SAT., FEB. 2  
Cleveland State Univ.  
Euclid & 21 St.  
216-851-8822



## WEST COAST

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
SAT., JAN. 19  
Mission YMCA  
4080 Mission  
415-824-4096

**LOS ANGELES**  
SUN., JAN. 20  
Embassy Auditorium  
839 S. Grand Ave.  
213-678-3528  
LIVE BAND

## CLASSES IN MARXISM "What Is To Be Done - Today"



Speaker:  
Tim Wohlforth,  
National Secretary,  
Workers League

**WASHINGTON, DC**  
FRI., JAN. 11  
All Souls Church  
(16th & Harvard,  
Northwest)  
7:30 pm

**BALTIMORE**  
SAT., JAN. 12  
Christ United Methodist  
Church  
(Chase & Washinton)  
7 pm

\$1; 50¢ unemployed & youth

# editor's notebook

## A Wayward Quaker

Richard Nixon, a man not known for his peaceful Quaker-like ways, continues to maintain his membership in the East Whittier, California, Friends Church.

Apparently, some members of the congregation are a bit disturbed by some of his activities which do not reflect too well on the church.

An article by his hometown



Slum area in Haiti.

Quaker minister, the Rev. T. Eugene Coffin, in *Christian Century* magazine commented on the contradiction between the pacifist policies of the church and Mr. Nixon's wartime actions, "during the Cambodian incursion." According to Rev. Coffin:

"The church's ministry and counsel committee considered the concerns prayerfully and concluded that it would be an un-Christian act to drop Richard Nixon's membership.

"Rather, the responsibility of Christians toward one another requires the kind of spiritual climate in which a wayward member can confess, repent, and start life anew."

## Haitian Society Given AID

If they are fed up with the beaches of the Riviera or drained from a pleasure cruise on their yachts, the Beautiful People of high society now have a chance to recuperate in the world's latest "in" place—a resort called "Habitation Leclerc" in Haiti.

For just \$150 per day, they may enjoy the fruits of their idleness in this resort, which its founder, Olivier Coquelin, describes as "the most extraordinary lascivious, and decadent place in the world."

Set in the picturesque hills of the Caribbean's most blood-drenched dictatorship, Habitation Leclerc is nevertheless in view of the desperate slums of Haiti, where the per capita annual income averages \$80.

However, the guests have been assured by Coquelin that they have nothing to fear from the Haitian people. After all, Habitation Leclerc is surrounded by a high stone wall with chunks of glass embedded on top and constantly guarded by the Tontons Macoutes, the savage police of the Duvalier regime.

"When I say decadent, I don't necessarily mean sex," Coquelin recently told the society reporter of the *New York Times*. "For me, decadent is just a beautiful way of life, where everything is beautifully lazy,

and all you have to do is raise your hand and you get service."

Lawrence Peabody, the wealthy Bostonian who designed the resort, considers the poverty of the Haitians to be terribly exaggerated. "Look, here the people are smiling. If nothing else they can always pick fruits and vegetables if they go hungry."

A party given to honor the opening of Habitation was attended by President Duvalier's sister, Nicole, who arrived surrounded by several body guards. "Elegant," she said in French



A guest at Haitian resort party.

as she made her entrance to a chorus of oohs and aahs. "Finally Haiti has something no other country has."

The opening night party did not go without a hitch. More than 2000 Haitians massed outside the stone walls as the limousines bearing guests passed through the gates. A 15-year-old Haitian girl was run over by one of the chauffeured cars.

Habitation Leclerc was partially financed by a \$400,000 loan from the Agency for International Development, which is extremely interested in promoting tourism when it is not too busy with devising torture techniques and strengthening the police throughout Latin America.



Nixon's brother Ed.

## 'It's Tough' Says Mrs. Ed Nixon

Richard Nixon's sister-in-law, Mrs. Edward Nixon, had a few things to say recently about her life with the president's kid brother.

"While he's off being paid to do nothing, I'm here alone," she said. "I'm trying to teach school and I've got two kids and let me tell you, it's tough."

Edward Nixon has been flying around the country on a \$21,000 consultant's fee, trying to locate a suitable place for a presidential library. To get the money, he only had to view six possible sites.

Reporters have been unable to reach Edward Nixon for comment either on the consultant's fee or his wife's complaints.

# Southgate GM Closes Plant

**BY DENNIS BREHM**  
SOUTHGATE—This Wednesday the Southgate General Motors plant was shut down.

For the entire second shift of almost 2000 workers with seniority of up to nine years, it was their last day for an "indefinite period."

A plant manager told the members of UAW Local 216: "We are going to try to work something out by this summer when the new models start."

This means that the "indefinite period" is at least eight months with little chance of a recall even then.

Eric, a young worker said: "This is it. I do not think they will ever call us back. I do not even know where to look for another job. Everybody is getting laid off. We have got to get Nixon out."

The elimination of the second shift will mean brutal speedup for the workers who remain. Many older workers are worried about being able to do the same work on the line the young workers did.

Virgil Collins, Secretary Treasurer of the local, speaking from the same platform as the plant manager said: "The union is very concerned about protecting our rights—our rights to unemployment compensation, health, and life insurance." He had not one word to say about the right to a job.

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party has launched a campaign in the local to fight the layoffs. Rudy Sulenta, spokesman for TUALP, stated in a leaflet to the membership:

"We urge all members of Local 216 to join TUALP which is leading the campaign to unite all

## Sears Offer An Insult

SAN FRANCISCO—After a 20 week strike by Retail Clerks Local 1100, the giant Sears Roebuck chain has made its first written offer.

The company arrogantly proposes that the clerks go back to conditions even worse than before the strike began.

A union official said: "It is very bad. The proposal takes away our floor control, our control of how many people may be on the floor selling at the same time."

"And on wages, nothing. Not one thing. They are trying to shake up people, get them down. They must have known that we would reject it."

### NO WAGE INCREASE

In addition to no wage increase for salaried workers, salesmen on commission must sell 20 percent more before they receive an increase.

This brutal program for speedup and destruction of trade-union rights is the company's answer to the local leadership's protest strategy of appealing to Sear's conscience.

The union leadership continues its policy of holding a protest vigil at City Hall begging for Sears to "keep its promises."

workers in the fight to force the Nixon government to resign and construct a labor party as the alternative.

"We must demand an immediate nationwide auto strike to stop the layoffs and to reopen the contract.

"We demand that the UAW call on all other unions to join together in an emergency conference to begin an immediate campaign of strikes and mass demonstrations to force Nixon and Ford out, and that this conference launch the building of a labor party."

In answer to the Workers Action Movement which is calling only for militancy and demanding that GM agree to a 30 hour week at 40 hours pay, Sulenta said: "Trade union militancy is not enough to answer these attacks. What is required is a political solution.

"The American working class has the strength to defeat Nixon's rush into dictatorship and his attempt to destroy the American labor movement, only if we have our own independent political party."



Union leadership of Sears clerks continues its policy of holding protest vigil at San Francisco City Hall.

# Oakland Cops Seek Frameup

**BY SUSAN FREDERICKS**

OAKLAND—The police and press are renewing their witch-hunt campaign in search of the murderers of Marcus Foster.

Two months ago, on November 6, Foster, superintendent of the Oakland schools, was killed and his Deputy Superintendent Robert Blackburn critically wounded as they left the school district headquarters.

These new headlines on Foster follow only days after the exposure of the story that someone had shot down a police helicopter. The press reluctantly admitted that the National Transportation Safety Board's report showed conclusively that it was a mechanical failure, although the police chief admits they are still searching for snipers.

Now the Symbionese Liberation Army which was originally blamed for the Foster murder on the basis of two alleged letters is also revealed to be nonexistent. Like the "Black Liberation Army," accused of murdering

police in New York and San Francisco, it is a police fabrication.

According to Sgt. Alger, leading the team of Oakland detectives working with the FBI: "The two suspects could be teenagers, young adults, or adults with slight, short build. They could be light-skinned Blacks or Caucasians...one or both of them could be female."

The police are directing their investigation towards political groups. They are developing a new theory that it may have been an outside group that came to Oakland to ambush the two men and then left.

"A lot of these things are possible and we have and will continue to investigate all of them," said Alger.

The police have deliberately set things up so that almost anyone fits the description. The youth and workers of Oakland must be warned of the possibility of provocations by the police to frame youth for Foster's death.

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# New Strike Hits Meat Packers

BY SHEILA BREHM

LOS ANGELES—The month long strike-lockout of a coalition of four unions: Teamsters, meat cutters, machinists, and operating engineers, against the southern California food industry ended this week.

meat packing companies.

In retaliation, workers in sixteen other plants have been locked out.

Joe Laguna, a young worker from Shamrock Co. explained: "When we went to work this morning, the doors were shut. They do not want to give us a full cost of living increase.

FREE

"Instead they say if prices go up 30 cents, we will get 11 cents. That is like working for free.

"They are trying to put us all back to slavery. We will stay out until we get what we want."

Many workers are dissatisfied with the contract settlement in the food industry. Jarra Simmons explained the reason for ratification. "The average guy has a family.

"We have been out for five weeks. The union said if we stay out another two to four weeks, we would get no support. We were pressured by the union and the companies to go back."

There is no cost of living increase until after the consumer price index has gone up two percent. It is precisely this clause that meat packers have rejected.

REFUSED

Strikers refused to go back when management refused to give a full cost of living increase, and extended their strike to seven other companies, including Highland, Great Western, Gold Ring, and Quality

## GE Ranks Stop Work Against Power Cuts

BY TED BAKER

OAKLAND—Workers on the night shift at the General Electric Transformer plant here held an hour long sit-down strike last week against unsafe lighting conditions.

GE management had turned off all lights in sections of the plant where work was not being done, creating unsafe conditions in the adjacent areas. GE management claimed the lights were turned off to conserve energy.

FORCED

The plant had just reopened after a 10 day shutdown over the holidays. Workers in the plant

were forced to either go on unemployment for the two weeks, or to take their vacation during the shutdown.

Many workers at the plant are afraid that GE is planning to partially or completely close the plant. Before the holidays there were threats to lay off the entire night shift. One young worker told the Bulletin: "I do not believe one word GE says, they cut the lights out to cut the costs, and they will shut down the whole plant if they do not think we are making them enough money.

"Nobody knows what they are going to do yet, but whatever it is, it will not be good for us."



American Nazi Party members at a previous demonstration on the West Coast.

## Police Protect Nazis At School Board Meeting

BY BARRY GREY  
SAN FRANCISCO—Over a dozen members of the American Nazi Party, in full uniform, showed up at the board of education meeting called to discuss new plans for school integration.

The nazis deliberately provoked a fight with members of the audience. They were defended by over 50 police, who surrounded the board of education building in squad cars and paddy wagons and lined the auditorium in military fashion.

The police savagely attacked

and beat spectators, mostly members or supporters of Workers Action Movement and Progressive Labor Party who had gotten into a scuffle with the nazis. Twelve people were arrested and dragged out of the auditorium by the police.

Not a single nazi was arrested or attacked by the police. It was perfectly clear the police were there in full force to protect the fascists.

For well over two hours, the nazis sat in the middle of the audience. Every time a speaker go up to protest their presence in the hall, Hope, the school board president ruled them out of order and switched off the microphone.

ESCORTED

When the nazis left they were escorted by a falange of police.

One spectator told the Bulletin: "I am in the teachers union. The nazis came in and started beating up people and dragged them out. It is terrible. I am ashamed to work in the school system."

The nazis came with the intention of provoking a fight. They entered, sat down, and after the hall was packed, stood up and took off their jackets, exposing their swastika arm bands.

Last month six nazis appeared at a board of education meeting and the police were not there. This time marked a sharp escalation in the drive by the nazis to mobilize and recruit forces in San Francisco.

A woman who works for the board of education said: "The guys were not bothering the police. The police came over and started hitting them with sticks. They beat them badly. They knocked people down and dragged them down the aisle.

"People were saying they want them out and the nazis started arguing and then the fighting started.

"The police did not do anything but come over and protect the nazis. They did not hit the nazis."

James Ballard, head of the San Francisco American Federation of Teachers refused to even ac-

knowledge the presence of the nazis or say a word in defense of those arrested by the police.

He told the Bulletin: "I'm not going to let the nazis divert me from what I came here for."

DISMISSAL

The Workers League and Bulletin call for the immediate dismissal of all charges against those arrested at the meeting.

PLP and WAM played directly into the hands of the fascists. They set up a picket line in front of the building before the meeting to protest the new integration plans, calling for preferential upgrading for minority schools. When the nazis arrived, they led a confrontation, and then continued their protests to the board, while the fascists sat in dead silence.

Nixon's sharp turn to massive unemployment and uncontrolled inflation is consciously accompanied by the turn to right-wing and fascist forces used to whip up racism and break the strength of the working class.

The AFT must lead this fight and mobilize massive forces from the labor movement and the youth to see to it that these fascist scum are barred from any future public meetings and driven out once and for all.

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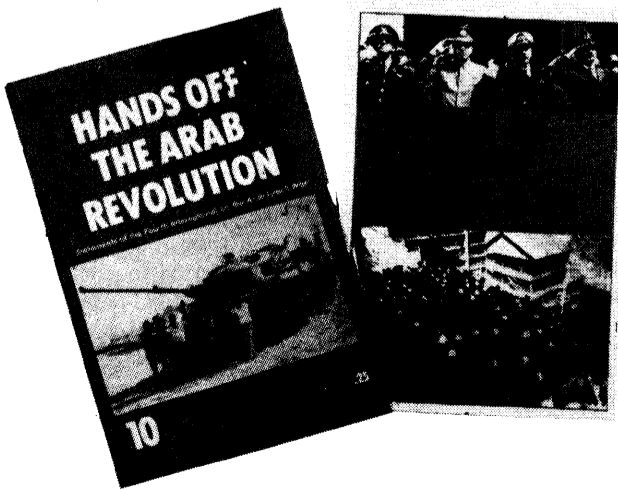
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# lucha obrera

lucía rivera

## SWP Apoya Reformismo

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El boycott siempre se ha usado por el liderato de los campesinos para presionar. En particular es visto como una táctica para ganar el apoyo de la clase media, crear publicidad periodística para ejercer presión en el estado capitalista, a través del Partido Democrático para que intervenga a favor de los campesinos.

Desde que escribimos esos artículos, la bancarrota de estas políticas se han hecho más aparentes. La inflación se ha salido de control con precios astronómicos. Utilizando la crisis del combustible, el gobierno ha adoptado la política de traer desempleo masivo para poder destruir la fortaleza de la clase obrera.

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