

Progressive Worker

NOVEMBER 1968 VOL.5 NO.1 TEN CENTS.

**NEW BUDGET SOAKS THE POOR □ SPECIAL
REPORT ON VIETNAM □ THE U.S. ELECTION
□ BRITISH LABOUR PARTY CONVENTION □
CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNDER RUSSIAN OCCUPA-
TION □ THE PARTI QUEBECOIS □ AND MORE**



Progressive Worker

The Progressive Worker is the monthly paper of the Progressive Workers Movement (35 East Hastings St., Vancouver 4, B.C.). Subscriptions are \$1.00 for one year -- there is a subscription blank on the inside back cover. The chairman of the editorial board is Jack Scott. The paper is authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department Ottawa and for payment of postage in cash.

CONTENTS

The New Budget: "Soak the Poor"	page 3
Special Report on Vietnam	page 7
Introduction	page 7
Canadian Demonstrations	page 8
Ho Chi Minh's Appeal	page 9
Statement of the NLF	page 10
The U.S. Elections	page 13
Other U.S. News	page 15
British Labour Party Convention	page 16
Czechoslovakia Under Russian Occupation	page 17
Military Coup in Peru	page 19
A Canadian Reporter in China	page 20
Anniversary Banquet	page 20
Workers and 'Legality'	page 21
The Parti Quebecois	page 21
Letters to the Editor	page 23



A MODERN FABLE

Once upon a time, somewhere in the southern Sahara Desert, dwelt a wealthy sheik. His residence was the only major

oasis for miles around. He was sitting pretty, but his fortunate circumstances only made him greedy. Now, as

water was the most precious commodity in that arid part of the world, he resolved to secure for himself all the available water.

Mounting his horse, he rode as far as he could in each direction, offering all the natives he encountered a penny for each bucket of water that was brought to him.

In a matter of weeks, several tens of thousands of buckets of water were duly received and paid for. It seems, however, that this massive relocation of water did strange things to the delicate water-table in the surrounding area. To the horror of the natives, the water level fell alarmingly making the life-sustaining liquid inaccessible to human use.

Seeing their plight, the prosperous sheik endeavored to aid them -- and to make himself yet more prosperous in the bargain. He therefore offered to furnish them with as much water as they needed at the going rate of two pennies per bucket.

Needless to relate, the sheik had a great surplus of water still for sale when the natives' pennies ran out. Quite naturally, however, he refused further sales at this point and would do no business with penniless bums.

Well, to make a long story short, just before the natives began to die of dehydration, they relieved the sheik of his generally useless life and nationalized both water and pennies. And (you guessed it, Ralph) everyone lived happily ever after.

THE NEW BUDGET 'SOAK THE POOR'

As we witness the continued unfolding of Trudeau's so-called "just society", it becomes increasingly evident that it is the same old capitalist society, but with larger portions of "justice" for the exploiters at the expense of the exploited. The budget brought down by Finance Minister Benson is a clear indication that the government fully intends to force the working people to shoulder the cost of the sharpening crisis of the capitalist system. The budget, viewed together with other government acts, must be taken as an open declaration of war on the workers and a forthright enunciation of a governmental policy to "soak the poor and aid the rich."

We have already seen how the Trudeau regime, in its yet short span of life, has cut the winter works programme, and reduced or abolished other measures designed to bring a minimum of relief to the deplorable conditions of the hundreds of thousands of unemployed. At the same time, the liberal government is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to facilitate the exploitation of our people and our natural resources by foreign monopolies.

To the east, in Newfoundland, the government will spend in the neighbourhood of \$75 million to provide port and other facilities for a British-West German concern. To the west, in British Columbia, similar facilities will be constructed to accommodate the Kaiser monopoly in the U.S., whose

objective is to dig tens of millions of tons of coal in the province, shipping it to Japan and leaving us with nothing but gaping holes in the ground. In between these two extremities, in the oil fields of Alberta, the potash deposits of Saskatchewan, the iron mines of Quebec and Labrador, etc., the same story can be related more than a score of times. The cost of a single one of these giveaway programmes would pay for winter works several times over. Better still, expenditure of the money to develop our resources on our own behalf, and use them as a base for secondary industry would help to establish the independence of the country and solve the problem of unemployment.

For example; we ship both coal and iron ore to Japan to make steel, enriching both U.S. and Japanese monopolies and impoverishing ourselves in the process. Digging up and shipping our natural resources requires only a minimum employment of labour whereas a steel processing combine would provide much more in the way of jobs and lay the base for a secondary industry.

However, our government, acting as the executive committee of the ruling class, prefers to make a fast buck by selling the country short and aiding the U.S. imperialists to dominate the economy. The high cost of this operation, in unemployment and poverty, is, as the budget indicates, to be borne by the Canadian working people.



Not too long ago, the Economic Council of Canada pointed out that more than 2 million Canadians (a minimum estimate) were living on salaries well below the poverty line. On the basis of the present cost of living, a married man earning \$3,000 annually would fit pretty well into the category of poverty. Now Trudeau has decided the way to alleviate his condition of poverty, and give him a share in the "just society," is to impose an additional 2 percent income tax on him.

Not for many years has a federal budget been so flagrantly in favour of the rich and blind to the interests of the poor and the working people. For example; the maximum payable under the 2 percent impost is \$120, which means that a skilled worker who is married and earning \$8,000 per year will pay exactly the same amount as a multi-millionaire

whose annual income is in the hundreds of thousands. A similar worker earning only \$5,000 would pay half as much as the multi-millionaire and an unmarried worker earning only \$2,00 per year will pay an extra tax of \$20.

A further inequity, and an additional boon to the rich, is in the realm of the estates tax. Formerly a limited portion of the amount gouged from the economy by the rich exploiters was recoverable in a tax on the estate left to heirs at death. Gifts made while the donor was still alive were also taxable as a measure designed to minimize opportunities to evade the estates tax. Under the terms of the new budget a man can now leave his estate to his wife free of taxation and he may donate sizeable amounts to both wife and children during his lifetime without payment of tax. So the rich exploiters now may keep ALL their ill-gotten gains even after death without having to face the necessity of returning even a minimum amount to the people.

The gesture of taxing the insurance companies has no real meaning. The manner in which the tax is to be imposed leaves the insurance companies free to pass the cost on by increasing the premiums.

The whole philosophy of the Benson budget is to dig deeper into the pockets of the working people and increase the wealth and power of the already wealthy and powerful capitalists. More than 80 percent of our working people find it difficult to make ends meet on existing incomes, and many of these are doing without necessities, the extra 2 percent tax will prove to be an extreme hardship for all such people. Thus does

Trudeau's "just society" manifest itself.

The tax impost will certainly increase unemployment because it reduces the purchase of many consumer items by millions of taxpayers. Reduced purchasing power means growing inventories and growing inventories mean increased unemployment and more poverty for the masses. "Controlled unemployment" is, in fact, the admitted intention of the government. The Minister of Finance claims a 5 percent level of unemployment is necessary in order to "cool" the economy, hold down wages and control inflation. Unemployment is already at or beyond the 5 percent level and there is abundant evidence to indicate that the government has no intention of adopting measures to improve the existing situation or to prevent it from becoming worse.

DEMOCRACY?

This budget, together with the measures that preceded it, should do much in the way of convincing many more people of just how fraudulent bourgeois parliamentary democracy really is. The bright promise of the Trudeau of the election campaign is overwhelmed by the dullness of his dismal record after but a few months in office.

During the campaign, Trudeau talked endlessly of the "just society," of the need to put an end to poverty and to aid the depressed areas and groups in the nation. There was no discussion of a minimum 5 percent level of unemployment, no mention of a proposal to tax the poor while he hands out millions in assistance to foreign monopolies, no promise was made to end the winter works programme and ease taxation on the rich.

If Trudeau had told the electorate during the election campaign exactly what he would do, and has done, during the first few months of the life of his government, he and his Liberal Party would have gone down to a smashing defeat. If he went to the country now on the basis of his announced programme in parliament, he would lose at least two-thirds of the seats he now holds. In other words, the Trudeau government, in reality, has no mandate from the Canadian electorate. But under the rules of our "democracy" he can thumb his nose at the electorate and stay in office for another 4½ years. Such is the farce and fraud of our bourgeois parliamentary democracy.

THE ECONOMY

The budget revelations are of such a nature that even nominally Liberal analysts and commentators are exhibiting a pessimistic outlook. One such analyst, Peter Newman, writing in the Liberal-oriented press, accuses the Trudeau government of having lost control of the nation's finances. Some of the facts cited by Newman and others in proof of their statement are as follows:

In the seven months that have elapsed in the current fiscal year, the predicted deficit has risen from \$40 million to a present estimate of \$675 million when the fiscal year ends in March. The question now being asked is: what will the next estimate be?

Many of the figures cited in the budget are said to be open to question. For example: Minister of Finance Benson expects total revenues of \$10.5 billion -- including the new taxes -- by the end of the fiscal year. But this amount is \$135 million

BELOW an earlier forecast WITHOUT the new taxes.

These facts, plus an expenditure that could rise well above Benson's estimates, indicates that the Trudeau government has no real understanding of what is happening to the financial structure of the country and, consequently, they are quite unable to control the situation.

Not taken into consideration in these items are the financial needs of the provinces and the Trudeau policy (as yet unknown) in relation to federal-provincial tax sharing agreements, which may cause provincial administrations to levy more taxes for their own purposes. Robarts of Ontario has already intimated that his government is prepared to take such a step and, indeed, that the step now appears to be inevitable.

For a large part of his estimated revenues, the Minister of Finance is counting on an increase of up to 8 percent in the gross national product. Such an estimate would seem to be highly optimistic under any circumstances, and no-



thing short of utopian in the light of existing economic conditions.

For the first time in history, we are about to record a favourable balance of international trade of at least \$1 billion. But this bare statistic could be very misleading. Many of our traditional overseas markets -- especially trade with Britain -- are declining drastically and our favourable balance is due entirely to a 25 percent increase in trade with the United States.

The government frankly states that it is putting solid dependence on a continued rise in U.S. demand for our products and our raw materials to keep the economy buoyant and ensure a steady rise in the gross national product. In other words, the Trudeau government is openly gambling on the war-inflated economy of the United States continuing to make increasing demands for supplies from Canada and also on the U.S. monopolies continuing to buy up more and more of the country.

We are now so dependent on the U.S. market that even a ten percent decline in the American economy could mean disaster for us. The very real prospect of an early cut-back in military production, an economic recession and greater protection for home industry in the United States will undoubtedly mean widespread economic crisis and depression in Canada. Yet in spite of all the evident signs of disaster, Trudeau offers no alternative to total reliance on the United States market to keep the Canadian economy afloat. What a bleak prospect!

TRADE UNION POLICY?

What can we expect in the way of policy from our U.S.-dominated trade union bureaucracy?

Judging by past performance, we can expect: (a) Pious resolutions about the double-dealing of Trudeau and the Liberal Party, (b) Wordy threats of demands for "sizeable wage increases" in contract negotiations two to three years from now, (c) Lectures for the workers on taking political action by voting NDP (social democrat) in the next election which may come as early as 3 years or as late as 4 years in the life of the present government. All in all, not a policy calculated to inspire the workers, and certainly not one which will bring down the government. Judging by the past experience, in other words, the trade union movement will fail to meet the challenge inherent in the present situation.

Events are moving rapidly, the crisis of the capitalist system is sharpening (the present budget is a storm signal), and reaction is sharpening its



swords. But instead of initiating a real fight for the rights and living standards of the whole working class, the trade union movement bargains (and poorly at that) only for the minority of workers who are organized. The unorganized workers are thrown to the wolves -- and the wolves skillfully direct the frustrations and hostility of the unorganized workers away from themselves and onto the organized workers. (In B.C., for instance, Bill 33 is presented as defending the interests of the 'consumer' against the "excessive" demands of organized labour.) In short: the existing trade union movement is setting itself up to be knocked over.

What kind of policy would be fought for by a trade union movement that truly represented the interests of the Canadian people? First, it would demand that the 2 percent tax be cancelled. Instead of placing reliance on parliamentary maneuvering and a business-as-usual approach, the trade unions would proceed to direct action. In view of all the circumstances, there is but one type of action that could logically be considered: the Trade Union government would be told that if the tax were not cancelled, there would be a general strike to begin in January and to continue until such time as the government conceded it is willing to make the necessary changes.

Other demands which would be advanced at the same time would include: An immediate change from reliance on the U.S. market to a search for new markets more widely dispersed; the creation of a secondary industry to utilize more of our natural resources in the manufacturing of finished products; an end to

unemployment, a 30-hour week and a minimum income of \$100 per week for both male and female; adequate pensions for the aged, the handicapped and the sick and disabled; nationalization without compensation of all foreign-owned industry in Canada; a new foreign policy based on anti-imperialism and the right of all nations to self-determination.

This programme clearly represents the interests of the Canadian people. But it is a programme far from the hearts of present labour bureaucracy, most of whom owe their primary allegiance to International treasuries, which are fattened by per capita taxes from Canadian workers, but kept 'safely' south of the border. Our present trade union 'leaders' are afraid to initiate any kind of action that depends on rank-and-file support because they know that their own phoniness would quickly be revealed in any genuine struggle. Their fat salaries depend largely on their ability to foster demoralization and apathy in the rank-and-file members of their union.

Canadian workers must shake off this apathy and demoralization in order to build a trade union movement capable of leading the fight for the rights of all the working people. If we don't, we can expect to see increasing divisions and hostility in the working class, paving the way for more repressive legislation and falling standards of living for all of us.

The first step is to raise demands in our unions which expose the narrow, phoney "I'm alright, Jack" attitude that the bureaucrats try to sell as 'trade unionism.' Then we must seize every opportunity

to fight our way out from under the dead weight of "International" unions that are controlled entirely from the United States.

Canadian workers must have their own independent democratic unions that are dedicated to the interests of the whole working class, and capable of fighting for the programme described above.



TRADE UNION PROGRAM

Readers may obtain a copy of the Progressive Workers' Trade Union Programme by writing to Advance Books and Periodicals, 35 E. Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC.



VIETNAM

INTRODUCTION

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following item was finished on November 2, the day before the important appeal of Ho Chi Minh was issued. We decided to publish it as an introduction to the appeal and to the statement of the NLF. Because of the historical importance of the two documents from Vietnam, we are publishing them in full. (Consequently, there is not enough space to publish this month's Canadian Worker section, and next month's issue of PW will include a good deal of trade union material.)

NLF VICTORY IN SIGHT

The crash of the guns of the TET offensive in South Vietnam has tolled the knell of the U.S. neo-colonialist undertaking, and, in the words of President Ho Chi Minh, "the defeat of the American aggressors is a foregone conclusion." As the U.S. sank deeper into the quicksand of People's War in Vietnam, they began frantically looking for ways to reduce the growing world-wide support for the National Liberation Front. Since the TET offensive earlier this year there has been an almost total news blackout in the Western Press of the battles waged and the subsequent victories of the NLF. While there has been silence on these struggles, an attempt has been made to create the impression that the Vietnamese are abandoning their principled demands and are

therefore, about to pull a sellout. The credibility of this "impression" would fall largely on deaf ears unless an "authoritative" source was found to echo the same line. Not only do we find echoing voices but rather voices come forth filling in all the gaps left out by the imperialist press and appear as friends and allies of the Vietnamese while spouting Marxist-Leninist phraseology.

These voices have become increasingly vicious since the start of the Paris talks. We've been considering for some time replying to these attacks but we did not wish to open up the question for fear of splitting the anti-imperialist movement; plus we hoped that those who were attacking the Vietnamese would see the errors of their ways and return to the correct path of rallying support for the heroic people of Vietnam.

As these attacks are now also being launched in Canada, we deem it our duty at this time to publish a reply to these slanders. We are preparing a detailed pamphlet on the whole question of support for Vietnam which will be available in the near future. For the purposes of this article, we will deal here only with the "arguments" as they are presented and leave the question of the attackers and their motives to our forthcoming pamphlet.

The whole basis of their position rests on the premise that the Vietnamese have negotiated away their principles and are willing to accept an end to the war on U.S. terms. Using statements appearing in the imperialist press as "proof" of the "betrayal", these people contend that those who also don't immediately jump on the bandwagon are themselves guilty of betraying the true interests of the Vietnamese and world's peoples. "Those who laud revisionists are thereby revisionists" is the catchall phrase used. By this definition Mao Tse-tung, Lin Piao, and Chu En-lai fit into this category as they praise the Vietnam Workers' Party, Ho Chi Minh, etc., for brilliantly employing People's War against the Americans (see October 1968 issue of Progressive Worker for statement of Chinese support for the Vietnamese). Not wishing to be put in the camp of counter-revolutionary revisionism but also not wanting to be stam-peded, we felt that an examination of the facts would be in order. Using Vietnamese source material rather than the like of the Toronto Globe and Mail or the New York Times, we are forced to conclude that the Vietnamese haven't sold out and are actively engaged in driving out the aggressor.

The question of a bombing halt on North Vietnam has raised some confusion in the minds of

some people. The Vietnamese under questioning as to whether a halt to the bombing would lead to an end to the war have answered us in the affirmative. But they have said it must be an unconditional halt in the bombing, and that bombing the North is only part of the total American aggression against Vietnam. The word "unconditional" is the KEY word. The Americans say they are in South Vietnam because the North Vietnamese are guilty of aggression against South Vietnam. In view that Vietnam is ONE country, the U.S. charge(that North Vietnam must cease its aggression against the South)is just so much nonsense. By demanding that the U.S. "unconditionally" stop bombing North Vietnam, they are saying that the U.S. mustn't put conditions on the bombing halt -- the conditions being that the North Vietnamese cease aid to their fellow countrymen in the South.

In this vein, the North Vietnamese, commenting on the upcoming U.S. elections in the Vietnam Courier (No. 179, August 26, 1968) under the title, "What Solution to the Vietnam Problem?" subtitled

"The Basis for Genuine Peace" said as follows:

"Since the Johnson line has done nothing but lead the U.S. to ever more bitter setbacks in Vietnam, what could a Humphrey or a Nixon do who offers nothing new compared with Johnson?

"A sound policy, one which conforms to the higher interests of the American nation, must be capable of bringing peace to Vietnam. There can be no solution to the Vietnam problem if the following imperative requirements are not satisfied:

- unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war by the U.S. on the whole DRVN territory;

- withdrawal from South Vietnam of all U.S. and satellite troops;

- recognition of the NLF as the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people;

- Vietnam to the Vietnamese: the affairs of Vietnam must be settled by the Vietnamese people themselves without any foreign interference.

"This is the essential content of the 4 points of DRVN government and the Political Programme of the South Vietnam NLF.

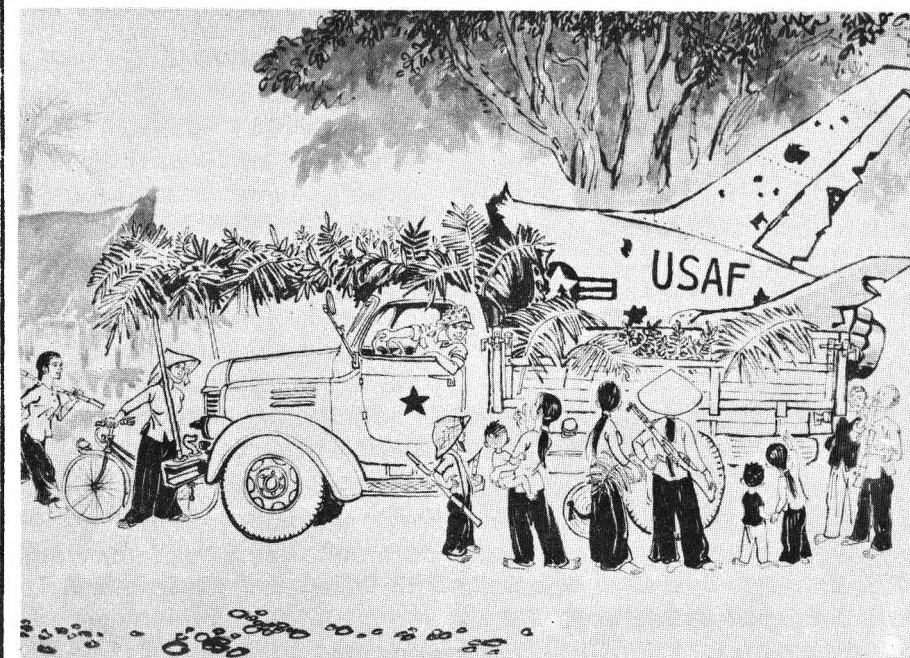
"Any electoral program of the American parties which ignores the above-mentioned points will only be a manoeuvre aimed at deceiving the electors. It can only lead the United States to disaster."

As we go to press, Johnson has just ordered a halt to the bombing. We are convinced that this is another frantic move by the American imperialists to extradite themselves from their dilemma. Events will prove that this too will be only another fruitless effort on their part, as the only solution is for them to stop their aggression. The U.S. is finished in Vietnam and must now find a way out without undermining their position in Asia and the world. Now, more than ever before, we must all step up our efforts, and demand: U.S. Aggressors Get Out of Vietnam! End Canadian Support for U.S. Aggression in Vietnam! Support the National Liberation Front!

applauded warmly. Tom Berger, NDP-MLA, received less than favourable response when he urged that people refrain from taking sides.

The "Communist" Party boycotted the march, while the Trotskyites manoeuvred as usual to build their own organization out of a genuine movement whose sentiments are overwhelmingly in favour of the NLF. We in PWM are confident that a large, broad-based anti-imperialist, pro-national liberation movement will be built in the near future supporting both Vietnamese and Canadian liberation.

HO CHI MINH'S APPEAL



Compatriots and fighters throughout the country!

In the face of the big victories won by our armed forces and people in both zones especially in the south since the beginning of last spring, the U.S. government, on November 1, 1968, was compelled to unconditionally stop the bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

This, after four years of extremely heroic fighting our armed forces and people have won a glorious victory: they have shot down over 3,200 aircraft, shot ablaze nearly one hundred big and small warships, thus defeating the war of destruction conducted by the U.S. imperialists against the northern part of our country.

This is a victory of very important significance for our people's great struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

The U.S. imperialists wrongly thought that with the savage destructive force of bombs and shells they could weaken the north, prevent the support rendered by the great rear area to the great front, and reduce the fighting capacity of the great south. The fact, however, is that the more the north fights the U.S. aggressors, the stronger and steadier it becomes in every respect while constantly extending wholehearted support to the liberation struggle of compatriots in the south. Also, the more the compatriots in the south fight the U.S. aggressors, the closer their unity, the bigger their strength, and the greater their victories.

This is a success of the correct revolutionary line of our party, a success of ardent patriotism and the strength of national unity and the determination to fight and to win, a success of the excellent system of socialism, and a success for our armed forces and people both in the south and the north. It is also

a success of the peoples of the fraternal countries and our friends in the five continents.

On this occasion, on behalf of the party and government, I warmly commend our compatriots and fighters in the whole country, and express sincere thanks for the great assistance and the sympathy and support of the fraternal socialist countries far and near, and of the peoples throughout the world, including the progressive people in the United States.

Dear compatriots and fighters!

We have defeated the war of destruction waged by the U.S. imperialists in the north. This, however, is only an initial victory. The U.S. imperialists are very obdurate and perfidious. They talk of "peace" and "negotiations", but they have not yet given up their aggressive designs. Over one million U.S., puppet and satellite troops are still perpetrating, daily, innumerable savage crimes against our compatriots in the south.

That is why, it is the sacred duty of our entire people now to increase our determination to fight and to win, and our resolve to liberate the south, defend the north, and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

As long as there is a single aggressor in our country, we must fight on to sweep him away.

Let our compatriots and fighters in heroic south Vietnam, under the glorious banner of the National Front for Liberation,

CANADIAN DEMONSTRATIONS

During the International Days of Protest on October 26th, demonstrations were held around the world against U.S. aggression in Vietnam. Across Canada in Winnipeg, Toronto, Vancouver, etc., protest rallies and marches were held with many people marching in support of the N.L.F. In Toronto, upwards of 30 demonstrators were arrested -- more about this in the next issue.

The Vancouver Committee to Support the NLF rallied people

to march for an NLF victory. About 2000 marched through the downtown area to the U.S. Consulate where several U.S. flags were burned. Two of the three main speakers, Martin Loney - president-elect of the Canadian Union of Students -- and Mordecai Briemberg -- professor at Simon Fraser University -- spoke in support of the NLF. The youthful audience, most of whom carried signs such as "THEIR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT", "SUPPORT THE NLF AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION,"

unremittingly carry on their offensive and uprisings and resolutely march forward and win complete victory.

Let the armed forces in the north resolutely strive in the patriotic emulation to build socialism and fulfil their duty to their blood-sealed southern compatriots. Let them always sharpen their vigilance, enhance their sense of self-reliance, and increase their strength and their preparedness in order to foil all new schemes of the enemy.

We believe that our people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation will enjoy ever stronger sympathy, support and assistance from the peoples of the fraternal countries and the peoples throughout the world including the progressive people in the United States.

Having gone through nearly one hundred years of colonialist yoke and more than 20 years of struggle against imperialist aggression, our people, more than anyone else, ardently cherish peace for national construction. But, that must be genuine peace in independence and freedom.

For that reason we firmly demand that:

-the U.S. government put an end to its war of aggression against Viet Nam, renounce all acts encroaching on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

-all U.S. and satellite troops be withdrawn from south Viet Nam.

-the internal affairs of south Viet Nam be settled by the south Vietnamese people themselves

in accordance with the political programme of the south Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, without any foreign interference.

-the reunification of Vietnam be settled by the people of the two zones--south and north--without any foreign interference.

Dear compatriots and fighters!

Ahead of us lie many more hardships and sacrifices. But our people's great struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation is vigorously advancing towards victory. The fatherland is exhorting us to march on with a high mettle and completely defeat the U.S. aggressors.

The U.S. imperialists will be defeated!

Our people will win!

Hanoi, November 3, 1968.

N. L. F. STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION ON POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF SOUTH VIET NAM PROBLEM.

For fourteen years now, in an attempt to materialize their scheme to turn south Viet Nam into a neo-colony and military base of the United States, the U.S. imperialists have carried out a policy of aggression, the most ruthless in history, against the Vietnamese people, grossly trampling on independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam which have been recognized by the 1954 Geneva agreements.

The U.S. have rigged up in south Viet Nam an extremely

brutal puppet regime, and have tried by steel and fire to impose their domination on the south Vietnamese people.

However, united millions as one the south Vietnamese people have risen up valiantly and have fought hard and perseveringly against the aggressors and the traitors. Under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and with the wholehearted assistance of their compatriots in north Viet Nam and the firm and strong sympathy and support of friendly governments and of the whole world's people, the south Vietnamese people have repeatedly won ever bigger victories in their sacred war of resistance

n attempt to stave off their

complete collapse, the U.S. imperialists have massively sent U.S. expeditionary troops for direct aggression against south Viet Nam, while conducting a war of destruction against the democratic republic of Viet Nam, thus perpetrating innumerable savage crimes everywhere in both zones of Viet Nam.

But, no brutal force can save the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen from ignominious failures.

Fighting with matchless heroism, the armed forces and people in North Viet Nam have shot down over 3,200 U.S. aircraft, defeating the U.S. war of destruction and fulfilling their duty as the great rear to the great front.

The armed forces and people in South Viet Nam have foiled all the U.S. plans to intensify its war of aggression and, since early spring this year, have been attacking and rising up continually and simultaneously, dealing thunder blows at the U.S. puppets right in their hideouts, recording unprecedented big victories in all fields, changing the war situation, and further driving the U.S. puppets into a position of passiveness and collapse from which it is impossible for them to get up.

In face of the valiant and unflagging struggle and the victories of great significance in all fields of the people throughout our country, and in face of the strong demand of the world's people including progressive people in the United States, the U.S. government has been compelled to agree to and effect an unconditional cessation of the bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is an extremely great victory of the people in all of Viet Nam and of the peace-loving people in the world.

This, however, does not mean that the U.S. imperialists have as yet given up their aggressive design against Viet Nam. They are obstinately stepping up their war in South Viet Nam and clinging to the puppet administration in the hope of maintaining their neo-colonialist rule in South Viet Nam and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam. They are stubbornly carrying on acts of encroachment on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

They keep demanding a price for their stopping the war of

destruction in North Viet Nam.

The South Vietnamese people and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation resolutely demand that the United States stop for good all acts of encroachment on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, put an end to their war of aggression in South Viet Nam, carry out all its pledges at the 1954 Geneva Conference on Viet Nam, and respect the inalienable national rights of the South Vietnamese people.

The South Vietnamese people cherish peace. But that must be a peace in independence and freedom. Representing this aspiration and resolve, and basing itself on its political programme, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation solemnly declares its stand regarding the political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem as follows:

1. South Viet Nam is resolved to struggle for the materialization of its sacred rights, namely independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, pros-



perity, and ultimate peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

2. U.S. imperialism must put an end to its war of aggression against Viet Nam, withdraw all its troops and troops of its satellites and all war means from South Viet Nam, and liquidate all U.S. military bases in South Viet Nam.

3. The internal affairs of the South Vietnamese people must be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the political programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, without foreign interference. A broad national and democratic coalition government is to be formed; and free general elections in South Viet Nam are to be held.

4. The reunification of Viet Nam will be decided by the people in the two zones of Viet Nam, step by step, by peaceful means and on the basis of consultations and agreements between the two zones, without foreign interference.

5. South Viet Nam will pursue a foreign policy of peace and neutrality: no military alliance in any form with foreign countries, and establishment of friendly relations with all countries on the five principles of peaceful co-existence. Good neighbourhood relations will be set up with the kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respect for her independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity with her present borders, and with Laos on the basis of respect for the 1962 Geneva Agreements concerning that country.

The U.S. imperialists are the aggressors in South Viet Nam.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is the organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese people in their war of resistance against U.S. aggression, resistance which is going from one victory to another. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is building up and developing a revolutionary administration of the South Vietnamese people. The governments of many countries and the world's people have recognized the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and given it great support and assistance. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is the authentic representative of the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people and has full competence to settle all problems concerning South Viet Nam.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation reiterates its complete unanimity of views with and full support for the four-point stand of the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This stand embodies the aspirations and will of the entire Vietnamese people, and constitutes the correct basis for the settlement of the Viet Nam issue.

Now that the U.S. has unconditionally stopped bombing and shelling North Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation firmly supports the stand of the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam as expounded in its statement of November 2, 1968 aimed at finding a political solution to the Viet Nam problem. After discussions with the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and reaching unanimity of

views with it, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation agrees to the holding of a conference of four parties comprising: the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the United States of America and the Saigon administration. At this conference, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation will represent the voice of the South Vietnamese people, the voice of justice.

The present administration in Saigon is but a clique of traitors and henchmen of the U.S. aggressors, it runs counter to the legitimate aspirations of the entire people of South Viet Nam. It has been strongly opposed by our people and spurned by progressive people in the world. This administration does not represent anybody. The presence of the representatives of the Saigon administration at the above-said conference does not mean recognition of that regime by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Despite its obvious failure, the United States still has not given up its aggressive design against Viet Nam. As for our people's resistance, the nearer the victory, the more its difficulties. Warmly responding to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred appeal of November 3, 1968, "so long as there is a single aggressor in our country, we must fight on to wipe him away," let all our compatriots and all the fighters of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces strengthen their resolve and fight perseveringly till final victory. Let us hold high the banner of victory, rush forward with heroism and vigour, enhance the mettle of continual offensive and continual up-

rising to defeat the U.S. war of aggression, overthrow the clique of traitors, wrest back complete power for the people, and fulfil gloriously our sacred mission, namely to liberate South Viet Nam, defend North Viet Nam, proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the fatherland, and contribute to the maintenance of peace in Asia and the world!

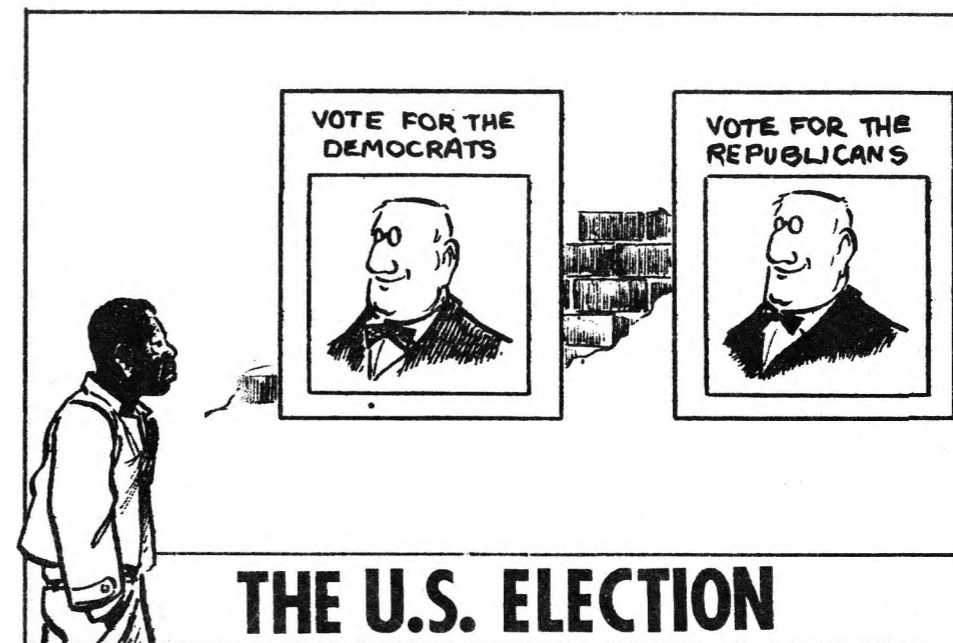
Soldiers and officers of the puppet army and personnel of the puppet administration, have a timely and clear appraisal of the situation, go over to the side of the fatherland, join the people in fighting to save the country, your homes, and your own lives, against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the people are prepared to welcome you.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls upon all governments, all organizations, all democratic personalities, and progressive people throughout the world, including progressive people in the United States, to give vigorous support to the just stand of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and render more active assistance to the South Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, till its complete victory.

South Viet Nam decidedly must be liberated!

The Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation will surely triumph!

South Viet Nam,
November 3, 1968.



THE U.S. ELECTION

There are a number of quite obvious reasons why Canada should be concerned with the trends of events in the United States. The close proximity of our country to that of the frightening giant to the south would alone be sufficient reason for an anxious scanning of the political horizon, but there are even more solid reasons than that. Our economy is almost entirely under the domination of the giant U.S. monopolies such as General Motors, General Electric, Standard Oil, International Telephone and Telegraph, General Electronics, etc. Paralleling this domination is the U.S. control over the Canadian trade union movement. And, finally, our politicians are well known for their subservient attitude before the U.S. lords of high finance. Obviously, Canada cannot escape the effects of any sharp change in political climate in the United States.

The election campaign, and ultimately the election itself, is a reflection of the crisis in the United States, a crisis that sharpens the contradictions even between various groups in the ruling class, and between the U.S. administration and

the state administrations of other imperialist and capitalist countries.

Only an end to imperialism and exploitation could solve the problems of the United States, but all of the candidates for the office of president were committed to maintaining the imperialist system and therefore had no effective programme to offer the electorate.

Humphrey, for the Democrats, was a top-ranked member of the Johnson administration since its inception. He was a leading member of the team under whose administration the crisis of the ghettos has reached disastrous proportions; the fascist tendencies of the state, especially in police and national guards departments, has advanced with giant strides; the poverty of the working people has increased despite the vaunted affluence of the U.S. economy; the administration has become ever more deeply mired in the war in Vietnam and at increasing cost in lives and material wealth; the financial cost of the war in Vietnam now exceeds \$30 billion annually, and this, together with other

international payments and the export of finance of the further expansion of imperialism, causes a crisis in the balance of international payments. These "accomplishments" of the Johnson administration mean political and economic crisis of gigantic proportions with no end in sight.

Humphrey, a leading figure for many years in the Democratic Party and in Democratic administration, appeared before the electorate as one who bears a large share of the responsibility for existing conditions, and found it virtually impossible to pretend he is anything different than what he always has been—a thoroughgoing reactionary defender of U.S. imperialism.

Nixon, on the other hand, was in a position of being able to attack the record of the Democratic administration and pick up votes from those who were alarmed and confused by the general decay evident in every aspect of U.S. society. Of course, on the basic issues of civil rights, poverty, and Vietnam, the Republican Party can do no more to resolve them than the Democrats. But Nixon was able to conceal this somewhat by avoiding saying very much about his proposals.

A new ingredient in this campaign was the candidacy of Wallace, the pre-historic candidate from the Southern States. Wallace came into the campaign with a very simple solution to all problems -- more war and more police brutality. Associated with Wallace in the campaign was General Curtis (the happy bomber) LeMay, who thinks nuclear weapons are no more dangerous than a rusty knife.

Wallace received a significant percentage (some fifteen percent) of the popular vote. The neo-Nazi party in West Germany created quite a stir when it received only 9 percent of the votes. What should be our feeling about the 15% of the votes received by the fascist demagogue Wallace? This is still only a minority, but Hitler too had only a minority following. The size and success of the Wallace campaign and the support for Wallace among armed fascist police and various Nazi groups, is an indication of how far the U.S. ruling class has gone along the road to fascism.

This does not mean, of course, that progressive Americans should have voted for Humphrey or Nixon, in order to keep Wallace out. Fascism never wins or loses at the polling places, but in the streets, the workshops, the fields and universities. During the presidential campaign, there were many examples of sharp struggle against the fascist elements. (The resistance to Chicago police brutality at the Democratic Convention is the most famous.) But in spite of the many episodes of heroic resistance, it is apparent that, at the moment, the initiative is in the hands of the reactionaries. If this were not so, a man with the message that Wallace propagates could not speak in the highly industrialized cities of the United States, not to mention getting sufficient support to win a place on the ballot in all 50 states.

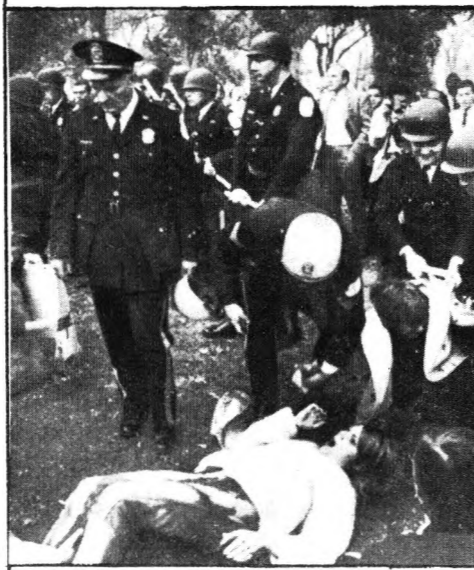
The reason for this situation is not because of the strength of the fascist element, although that is a serious fact that must be taken note of. The true reason is that the anti-fascist, anti-imperialist forces are badly

divided, immobilized, their struggle not consistent and sustained, but of an episodic character. The Left lacks unity and concrete objectives; therefore it appears weak in the face of the fascist offensive. A large section of the potentially anti-fascist youth movement in the U.S. were followers of the Kennedy and McCarthy camps and with the assassination of Kennedy and the drop-out of McCarthy, these important forces did not move towards new and more advanced forms of struggle, but, for the most part, have given way to feelings of pessimism and defeat and are continuing to remain "neutral." If they continue to remain "neutral" fascism will have taken a giant stride toward victory.

The situation is an extremely serious one for the whole world and certainly for Canada which is so close to the U.S., and politically and economically dominated by the U.S. monopolists. Working people in Canada must stand prepared to render all possible aid to the democratic element in the United States. We could begin now by taking one important step that would give support to the anti-fascists and simultaneously advance the fight for an independent Canada. That step would be in pressing more vigorously the struggle for an independent Canadian trade union movement. George Meany; his anti-Communist "foreign minister", Jay Lovestone; and their reactionary and racist band that control the affairs of the AFL-CIO, and hence the affairs of the major portion of the Canadian movement, are real agents of U.S. imperialism and fascist reaction. An open break with these labour lieutenants of the ruling class on the part of Canadian union-

ists would be a real and important and effective blow struck in support of American anti-fascists and for Canadian independence.

One thing that became clear during the election campaign is the trend towards greater protection for U.S. industry. In view of the domination of our economy, and the subservience of our ruling class and our politicians to U.S. political and economic interests, a move toward the direction of greater protectionist measures will do serious damage to our economy and our industrial development which are already in bad shape. Canadians had better begin giving some serious thought to the steps necessary to defend our interests and to stop the inroads of fascism across our border. We should make every effort to support and strengthen the anti-fascist forces in the U.S., and the most effective measure we could take is to immediately secure our own political and economic independence. We would like to know what the great radical democrat, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, has in mind in this regard.



Demonstration Across From The White House on Election Day.

OTHER U.S. NEWS

Acts of sabotage-resistance have begun to occur with greater frequency in the United States, a sure indication that the anti-imperialist, anti-fascist struggle is on the upgrade. A few such acts of recent vintage are as follows:

In Eugene, Oregon, on September 29, a series of explosions rocked the Eugene Naval and Marine Corps Training Center. Four dump trucks, a 12-ton crane, an armoured personnel carrier, a trailer and a radio tower were destroyed in the blast.

In Milwaukee, draft records were destroyed and the Wisconsin Selective Service headquarters in Madison was fire-bombed.

Resistance to the draft for service in Vietnam is also on the increase. Also, an increasing number of draftees are being court-martialed for refusing orders for transfer to Vietnam and for engaging in anti-fascist, anti-imperialist, anti-war demonstrations.

There is plenty of evidence that there are progressive forces in the United States prepared to take effective action. The important thing is to unite them and give them some common direction.

THE TRIAL OF HUEY NEWTON

Huey Newton, a leader of the Black Panther Party in the United States, has been declared guilty of "voluntary manslaughter" on a charge arising out of an alleged battle with white police in Oakland, Cali-

fornia. The original charge was one of murder, but a jury did not believe the prosecution evidence, yet was unable to completely resist the pressure from the state and therefore hesitated to find Newton innocent and set him free.

Defense Attorney, Charles Garry, stated: "We are keenly and absolutely disappointed in the verdict. It makes no sense on legal or evidentiary grounds He either had a gun or he didn't." The verdict, like the evidence that proceeded it, was full of contradictions.

Notice of appeal was given by the defense, but bail, automatic in any other case of this nature, was refused by the judge. The decision by the judge to refuse bail was certainly political and probably racist.

On September 27, sentence of two to fifteen years was passed on Newton. This means that the Oakland establishment has had its way on the elimination of Huey Newton, at least to the extent that they are preventing him from organizing the Black people of Oakland to stand up and fight for their rights. However, they are far from satisfied as they had been looking forward to a political assassination.

The sentence passed by the court means that the California Adult Authority will decide the minimum amount of time to be served before Newton becomes eligible for parole. The same Authority will decide if, in fact, he will be granted parole before the end of the fifteen year maximum sentence.

It was this board which revoked the parole of Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther Party leader, and Peace and Freedom Party candidate for President of the U.S. A superior court judge had ruled the board acted illegally in revoking Cleaver's parole; this decision was, in turn, over-ruled by the Court of Appeal which means Cleaver will go back to prison unless further appeals change the decision.

This California Adult Authority is a body of seven men who determine whether a prisoner will go free or stay in jail, once convicted. The governor of the state appoints members for a four-year term. At the end of the term, if they have made decisions politically satisfactory to the incumbent governor, they may be re-appointed. Those with unsatisfactory records can be replaced when their term expires. The governor may also appoint a chairman "from time to time," a phrasing of the statute which gives him authority to replace a chairman anytime he chooses. Obviously, the Adult Authority is extremely susceptible to political pressure.

It is reported that the Black Panther Party is seeking international support to help publicize these cases and to put pressure on the state administration in California to end the political imprisonment of the two leaders of the Black liberation struggle.

Those who want to assist with the defense fund or send message of solidarity should write to; Black Panther Party, 3106 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, California. U.S.A.

It has also been reported that Eldridge Cleaver has been ruled off the Presidential ballot in California on the grounds he does not qualify for President of the United States because he is two years short of the 35 years of age required under the constitution. Other states will no doubt follow California in this decision.

BRITISH LABOUR PARTY CONVENTION

The British "Labour" Party recently held its annual conference September 30 to October 4.

The site chosen was Blackpool in north west England, traditional holiday resort for Britain's industrial workers, but there was little of the holiday atmosphere at this conference which had the purpose of exhorting Britons to work harder in order to benefit Capitalism, and its representative — the British Labour Party. However the first session of the conference was hardly under way when the mood of the workers was shown. Dozens of placard-carrying miners' representatives forced their way into the lavishly decorated Winter Gardens in protest against the increasing layoffs of thousands of miners. So-called "militant" trade unionists, acting under pressure from the rank-and-file began an attack on the "Prices and Income Policy" of the "Labour" bureaucrats. Although the resolution condemning the policy was successful by a five to one majority, Wilson declared that he had no intention of carrying out the will of the conference and the Prices and Incomes Policy would stay.

This is democracy in the British Labour Party.

Among other enlightening remarks issued by Wilson was a warning to workers against "ill-considered industrial action which would ruin Labour's chance of winning the next General Election". In other words, don't strike or we may lose our soft, comfortable jobs and exorbitant salaries.



After the ritual of lambasting government policy, the so-called "left" wing of the party threw their principles overboard (if they had any left) and rallied round their glorious leader and party. Union bosses Cousins and Scanlon were first in line to heap praise on Wilson's head although admitting that the party "had fallen far short of its expected results".

The economic crises has hit Britain's Capitalist class a telling blow. Consequently the Labour Party, acting for the Capitalists, has been increasingly shifting the economic burden onto the backs of Britain's workers. However this crisis has worsened considerably over the last four years of Labour Party rule. The devaluation of the pound in November 1967, instead of improving the situation has resulted in sharp increases in the payments deficit. The trade deficit in the first eight months of this year is almost three times larger than that of the first nine months of 1967.

Slogans such as "work harder", "back Britain" have been used desperately in an attempt to correct this worsening situation.

Even England's most titled parasite, Philip, dragged himself away from polo games and urged Britons to exert themselves to the utmost.

Canadians should be more than casually interested in the events unfolding in Britain. Our own social-democratic party, the NDP, operating under the guise of a socialist-labour party, holds similar policy to its British counterpart and can be relied on to act in a similar manner, if elected to power. Similarly, however, Canadians would soon realize, as thousands of Britons are realizing, that no help can be expected from a party governing a Capitalist state.

A true socialist alternative is available to the British people, however. Since the decline of the revisionist-corrupt Communist Party of Britain, Marxist-Leninist groups have inevitably sprung up in England and national liberation movements are also on the rise in Scotland and Wales.

It remains only a matter of time before a true Communist party emerges to lead the British people toward independence and Socialism.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA THE OCCUPATION BECOMES PERMANENT

Despite the absence of any real resistance to the Russian occupation, Czechoslovakia continues to be a focal point of crisis in Eastern Europe. Having till now failed dismally in their frantic search for loyal stooges, with some public standing, to rule on their behalf, the Moscow revisionists are compelled to prepare for permanent encampment on Czech territory in order to keep in line the Dubcek agents of the capitalist class. This continuing occupation stands as a constant reminder of Russian aggression against an independent state, and a continuing exposé of the essentially reactionary features of Soviet revisionist rule.

Until now the working people of Czechoslovakia have remained relatively inactive in the face of Russian aggression. No doubt the mass of the people are temporarily immobilized and discontented as a result of revisionist control of their revolutionary party, and consequent misdirection of the struggle. How long it will take the workers to regain their bearings and chart a correct revolutionary course is difficult to estimate when one is thus far removed from the scene of conflict and authentic information is so hard to obtain in the face of strict censorship.

One of the most significant facts in the whole affair is the almost total lack of interest in the fate of Czechoslovakia exhibited by the Western imperialist powers. After the flurry of propaganda during the



Signs Show the Invaders the Way to Moscow.

first week or two almost nothing has been said about the Soviet act of aggression. There is no longer any doubt in the mind of anyone that the Soviet ruling clique and the U.S. imperialists have an agreement on the division of the world. But, as the old saying goes, "When thieves fall out, honest men come into their own", so when the U.S. imperialists attempted to steal a march on Moscow, by infiltrating the Czechoslovak economy with the aim of ultimate control, the Soviet rulers acted to protect their foreign, imperialist interests, with the result that the whole world can see the extent of the treachery of Brezhnev and Kosygin.

The Moscow clique are hard-pressed to "justify" their invasion. They offer the excuse that socialism in Czechoslovakia was being threatened by the western imperialists. In this effort at "justification" they studiously ignore two

important points: (1) With the active assistance of the Soviet ruling clique, Czechoslovakia had already abandoned socialism and had returned to the road of capitalist development. Hence, the "defence of socialism" was in no way involved as Moscow alleges; (2) Lenin long ago said that the fact that the imperialists might take advantage of self-determination could in no way alter the stand of Communists on this front. If there was socialism in Czechoslovakia the working people of Czechoslovakia could themselves be depended on to defend it. What Moscow was defending was not socialism, but a slice of the Muscovite empire.

A positive and valuable feature of the invasion and occupation is the almost total exposure of the imperialist nature of Soviet revisionist rule. Almost the entire base of international support for the Soviet clique has been eroded. Among the western Communist (revisionist) Parties the insignificant Canadian and U.S. factions stand almost alone in unqualified support of the Moscow invasion. Both groups are heavily dependent on Moscow for financial support.

The Kashtan faction had to apologize for its previous less than enthusiastic declaration of loyalty and assure Moscow of future conduct if forgiven their sin against the Soviet ruling class. The Canadian Tribune even published a bogus document long since exposed as a forgery and aban-

done by Moscow because it would not bear examination. This was the document which falsely declared that the "Warsaw Nations" were responding to an appeal for assistance from an un-named group in the Central Committee.

Things are so bad for Kosygin and company that even the World Federation of Trade Unions, always a pliable Soviet tool, found it necessary to condemn the invasion. Not a single bit of support for the occupation in Czechoslovakia. On the contrary, numerous resolutions of protest have been passed.

In the U.S.S.R. itself a demonstration of protest in Red Square resulted in arrests, beatings, and lengthy sentences to confinement in labour camps. That the protesters were exclusively confined to confused petty-bourgeois intellectuals with bourgeois pretensions, people who were totally isolated from the masses, and especially from the working class, is beside the point. The real significance of the panic exhibited by the ruling group in the arrests and beatings, and in the vicious sentences handed down, is in its evidence of a real fear of a mass uprising of the working people in opposition to Moscow's policies of imperialist conquest and exploitation.

That there is a sharpening of the crisis in the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe there can be no doubt. The ruling group in Moscow will try to solve the crisis by means of increased exploitation of the working people at home, a policy of imperialist expansion to win

super-profits abroad and intensified competition to secure a larger share of world markets. These policies must lead to growing resistance to exploitation on the part of the working people at home, the development of armed struggle for national liberation in the occupied territories, and cut-throat competition with the imperialist powers over the fight for a bigger slice of world trade. Already the effects of such cut-throat competition can be seen in many places; for example, in the Middle East and in Latin America. The unmasking of the Soviet revisionists and the deepening crisis will certainly hasten the development of struggle and bring an early end to revisionist rule, and return the U.S.S.R. to the Leninist path.

In Czechoslovakia the Dubcek group has so far managed to keep things fairly well under control. How many revolutionaries have been murdered, imprisoned or driven into hiding in order to maintain the air of calm resignation is as yet unknown. What is certain is the fact that the Dubcek group is tolerated but not trusted by Moscow. Neither is Dubcek trusted by the mass of working people who can see through his "economic reforms" and so-called "socialist democracy" which mean only freedom for reactionary bourgeois and fascist gangs to operate with the connivance of the state administration.

The limited circle of support that Dubcek did have is now rapidly melting away. Some who were misled by the flowery rhetoric have now shed their illusions in the cold light of dawn; some have begun to move to the new source of

power, the occupation authority, in order to improve their own chances for enrichment; some have fled the scene of conflict altogether and sought sanctuary under the wing of Western imperialism. When Dubcek is at last completely discredited and the last vestiges of support have disappeared, the Moscow imperialists can be expected to remove him without ceremony and scarcely anyone will mourn his passing.

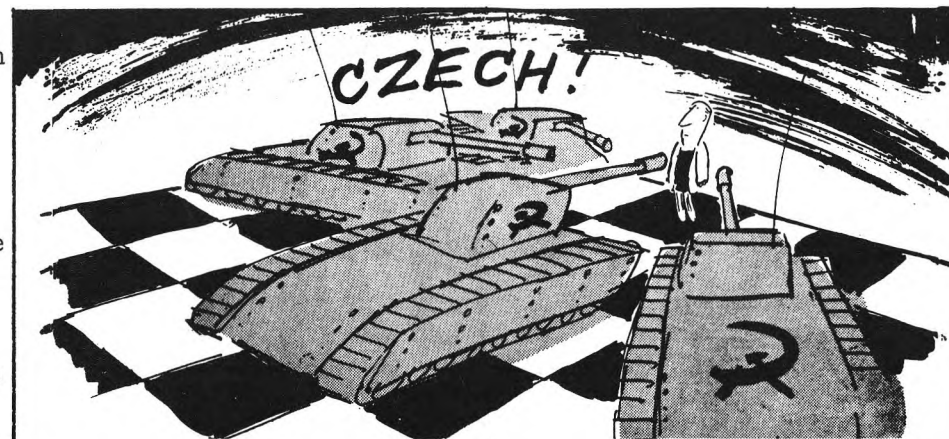
But any new occupant of the seat of power who is installed by the Russian occupants of Czech territory is certain to be immediately met with mass hostility. Such a hand-picked stooge will increase unrest and resistance, not lessen it. This will only make more clear the principal contradiction, now somewhat obscured by the toadying of Dubcek and his crew. That principal contradiction being between Russian imperialist aggression on the one hand, and the great mass of the people of Czechoslovakia united in determination to resist aggression and free the nation on the other hand. It is a contradiction that will be solved by people's armed struggle against the oppressor.

The occupation of Czechoslovakia by Russian troops has caused consternation in the revisionist camp abroad. Basing their appeal on reforms, democracy and peaceful co-existence, the revisionist parties, especially in Italy and France, had great hopes of increasing their influence and, consequently, the number of seats they held in parliament. Now they can see their prestige declining and their parliamentary position in mortal danger. Some who have no fundamental disagreement with the Moscow

clique have reacted angrily to the heavy-handed way in which their Russian colleagues seek to achieve their objectives.

Their protests are more a matter of trying to save their own political skins than a case of any basic differences as to the path to follow.

The recent elections in Sweden are probably a pretty fair indication of what to expect. There the revisionist C.P. lost 5 of the 8 seats previously held, leaving them with just 3, the lowest number in some years. This was no indication of a right-wing trend since the extreme right was virtually wiped out at the polls, and the ruling social-democrats made



all the gains. The revisionist parties are obviously losing much of their influence and support.

However, the real beginning of the end for the Moscow ruling group will be when the working masses rise in armed

resistance to Russian aggression and the proletariat of Europe come to their assistance. With their magnificent background of struggle, it should not take the Czechoslovaks long to make up their minds to rise up and overthrow the oppressors.

MILITARY COUP IN PERU

A military coup in Peru has overthrown the regime of President Belaunde Terry, in the fifth year of a scheduled six year term of office. Belaunde Terry himself ascended to power following the last coup which occurred in 1962.

The militarists are attempting to give a semblance of democracy and national independence to their action by cancelling a contract with a U.S. oil firm and accusing the deposed regime of all sorts of corruption and irregularities. However, the Peruvian army is still under the thumb of the Pentagon and the CIA and U.S. firms still continue to expand their operations and reap enormous profits out of the exploitation of the people and natural resources of Peru. Taking this into consideration, the U.S. is temporarily withdrawing "aid"

and holding up recognition of the military junta. The military regime that has been installed consists, after all, of a number of young colonels who were trained in the United States and in the U.S. government-run "School of the Americas" in the Panama Canal Zone.

While the official reason given for the coup was a charge against the civilian government of ignoring the national interest in negotiating a deal with the U.S. owned International Petroleum Co., the real reason was because of an internal struggle over division of spoils, which showed signs of endangering the solidarity and consequent stability of the ruling class and the puppet regime.

Conditions for the 13 million population have not changed unless it is for the worse

and at least eight foreign oil companies continue confidently to scramble for territory and carry on exploration. In Peru it is still "U.S. business as usual."



CANADIAN REPORTER IN CHINA

Colin McCullough, *Globe and Mail* correspondent in Peking, reports that the Peoples' Republic of China is preparing for another great leap forward in industry and agriculture. According to McCullough, there are bumper-crops in wheat, rice and cotton and grain deliveries are running 16.7 per cent higher than in the corresponding period last year. Textile and steel production are also said to be at record high levels.

Improvement in both quantity and quality of production are noted in machine tools, chemical, insecticides, bicycles, watches and a variety of other products. Coal production was reported to be 39 per cent higher in August than in April. Production in the oil industry was reported to have increased as much as 40 per cent in some areas. The general picture adds up to important advances in the economy of China. When tak-

en together with the political advance marked by the establishment of revolutionary committees in all provinces and regions except Taiwan, the gains on the economic front indicate an all-round advance for the revolution and a further consolidation of Socialist society in China. The proletarian revolutionary line of Mao Tse-Tung is being proven correct in practice.

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

On September 28, 1968, people in Vancouver B.C. gathered together in greater numbers than ever before to celebrate the 19th Anniversary of the founding of the Peoples' Republic of China. And indeed, it was something to celebrate, and some celebration.

On October 1, 1949, Mao Tse-Tung announced to the world, "the Chinese People have stood up." From that time forward, revolutionaries and proletarians all over the world have looked to China with joy and gladness in their hearts. Under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, they have watched the Chinese people go through the Great Leap Forward and Establishment of the peoples' communes of 1958, fight off the natural calamities of the

early 1960's with no famine, or even deaths due to malnutrition. Everytime a victory for the people of China was announced, people of revolutionary outlook all over the world rejoiced. For here was another blow to the world's reactionaries and particularly to the U.S. imperialists.

Shortly before the 19th anniversary celebrations it was announced that the people of China, under the brilliant leadership of Mao Tse-Tung, had succeeded in establishing three-way revolutionary committee's in all major municipalities, autonomous regions, and provinces (except Taiwan) in China. Surely, the reactionaries of the world will never recover from this blow! Dashed are their hopes and dreams of a slow return to capitalism in China.

The Chinese people are determined that they will forever be red, and determine their own destiny.

And so it was with joyous hearts that the 400 people of Vancouver gathered to celebrate New China's 19th birthday. There were songs and dances, good food and speeches. The main speaker was Ken Woodsworth, who has visited China several times: he compared the bitter cruelties of the old society with the great advances of the new one led by Mao Tse-Tung. But the main characteristic of the evening was the joy in the hearts of everyone present in knowing that one-quarter of the earth's population, led by the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our time, is marching onward and upward under the red banner of the proletarian revolution.

WORKERS AND LEGALITY

(Editor's note: The item below is an extract from a letter to the editor published in "The Vanguard," a labour journal from Trinidad-Tobago. The letter was written by Mr. George Weekes, President-General of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union of Trinidad-Tobago. Much of the comment is timely for Canadian trade unionists who are being constantly weighed down by chains of "legality.")

The Editor,
The Vanguard.

Please permit me space to answer the recent attacks on me by both the "Guardian" and the "Express."

These newspapers have criticized me for my speech to oil-workers at Santa Flora on August 14, in which I called upon workers in BP to standby for action -- to take over BP, should they decide to carry out their threat of retrenchment on August 15.

My critics condemn my action

as "illegal." To question the legality or illegality of what action workers ought or ought not to take to protect their interest is to miss the point. It is not a question of whether the action is legal but whether it is justified. In any case, the fear of illegality must never be an excuse for inactivity where the workers' very existence is threatened.

Have the "Express" workers forgotten what the "Mirror" did to them? Throw them out of bread without warning and at a moment's notice was ready to pack up and run? And all in the interest of profits.

Anything is illegal which is against the law. But whose law? Law made by one class to protect themselves against the other classes. The laws the ruling class makes are always in the interest of the ruling class, the exploiting class, and are always against the ex-

THE PARTI QUÉBÉCOIS

Ex-Liberal Party member Rene Levesque, an associate of Prime Minister Trudeau in his "radical" student days, has launched a new political movement under the imposing title of "Parti Quebecois." The Party has some not too clearly defined separatist tendencies, but the majority demands of the leadership appear to center around limited autonomy for Quebec within a Canadian federal state. There were, however, a number of sharp differences expressed at the convention which gave birth to the

Party.

One of the questions which sharply divided the delegates concerned the position of the French language in an autonomous Quebec. There was strong pressure from one wing for a uni-lingual Quebec with French being the only official language. But the Levesque stand for a bi-lingual Quebec -- very similar to the Trudeau policy -- carried the day, after some heated debate.

Language always takes on poli-

ploited class, the working class. The working class cannot remove this yoke of exploitation without breaking these laws. The action they take will always be illegal. The right to take such action depends on whether it is justified in the workers' interest. Revolutions are never legal -- but often they are justified.

Do the "Express" and "Guardian" condemn black South Africans and Rhodesians for taking up revolutionary arms against their white oppressors? Let them answer. The South African Government has, by law, made it illegal for blacks to marry whites. Should the blacks accept this law? If not, what must they do? It is also illegal for blacks to hold meetings or demonstrations. Do you say they should not hold meetings or demonstrations because it is illegal? I challenge you to answer these questions.

Man must break law when law is unjust. Working class interest dictates what is just and what is not.

tical importance in an oppressed nation, and no less so in Quebec than in any other place. In this predominantly (over 80 per cent) French-speaking area, English, the language of the oppressor nation, takes first place in the world of commerce. It is well-known that scarcely any French-speaking Quebecers rise to prominence in the industrial and commercial life of Quebec. The fight for a uni-lingual state in reality reflects the demand for the right of the French-speaking citizen to play a more im-

portant part in directing the economy of the area.

The new party is predominantly middle class and clearly reflects middle class objectives while tailing along in the wake of the bourgeoisie. There is, on the one hand, a desire for greater freedom of movement, a larger and more important share in the direction and control of the affairs of state and, on the other hand, a middle class fear of the new and unknown and a particularly overwhelming fear of encouraging the working people to take action. This results in a form of political schizophrenia -- a simultaneous desire for some type of democratic action that will accord the middle class greater opportunities to improve their own position and an embracing of outright fascist tendencies.

Political schizophrenia is already clearly evident in the new Party and will be more so as time moves on. The Parti Quebecois is the result of a political marriage between the middle class liberal-democrats under Rene Levesque and the pro-fascist tendency of ex-Social Creditor Gregoire. The initiating convention witnessed some bitter quarreling between the two tendencies and there is certain to be, within the Party, a continuing struggle for power between the two forces. It remains to be seen if the inner-party struggle results in an early split or in the dominance of the one group over the other.

Still another factor to be considered is the role of the R.I.N. in the future of the new Party. The R.I.N. has, until now, played more of a classical Social-Democratic role than of an orthodox Liberal movement such as is represented by the

Levesque forces. The R.I.N. sought to give limited representation to the interests of the working class and, up until recently, even had a left wing of Marxists led by Madame Ferretti. This Party, like most Social-democratic groups, was often seen on picket lines in support of striking workers.

The R.I.N. always stated firmly it would never merge with Levesque's group if Gregoire was to be part of the deal. But now that a single party composed of both the Levesque and Gregoire groups is a reality, the R.I.N. has reversed itself and has given up its identity as an independent political force by dissolving itself and entering the Parti Quebecois as individual members.

Given the present trend of events, the next provincial election is shaping up as a three-way battle between the Conservative-oriented Union Nationale, the pro-federal Quebec Liberal Party and the pro-autonomy Parti Quebecois. One could not envision any change in Quebecois political relations with Ottawa no matter which of the three wins at the polls.

Obscured by the question of language and culture and by the jousting with Ottawa is the real and overriding problem affecting the life of Quebec. That real problem is U.S. domination of the Quebec economy represented by an investment in excess of \$10 billion -- about half the total investment of the U.S. monopolies in all Latin America, and Latin America has a population of over 200 million compared to Quebec's roughly 7 million. The Anglo-Canadians who dominated the political life of Que-

bec are no more than hired managers for the U.S. imperialists. While the Quebecois must, of necessity, have a confrontation with the Anglo-Canadian stooges of the U.S., they must see beyond them to the real rulers -- the U.S. imperialists.

Important middle class forces in both the Union Nationale and the Parti Quebecois who stand in mortal fear of a revolutionary confrontation seek out an easier means of out-flanking the U.S. imperialist-Anglo-Canadian domination of Quebec. Their solution to the problem consists of soliciting French, and to some extent West German investment in the Quebec economy in the vain hope that it will ultimately replace, or at least diminish U.S. domination. Even if, by some miracle, this move should prove successful, it would only change one imperialist overlord for another. If Quebec is going to be truly independent, it will have to get rid of all forms and types of imperialist domination over the economy. Exploitation in the French language is no more palatable than exploitation in the English language.

A vital ingredient missing in the Quebec situation is a party that represents at least the elementary interests of Quebec's working people. The CNTU might have already played an important part in founding such a party had top leaders like Marchand not defected to the federal Liberal Party. But most of all Quebec is in need of a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist Party which can give leadership to the workers and help shape the course of events. The forces to create such a movement will undoubtedly come forward in the struggle for independence in Quebec.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor; Progressive Worker

Well at last we have one group of "Oil Workers" in Canada with enough gumption to do something about forming their own "Canadian Union".

They are the United Oil Workers, a new group out of Montreal and they represent the workers in the Fina refinery. They are at present in the (U.S.) Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, found it is not the union for them and have decided to do something constructive.

Through their own efforts they formed the United Oil Workers and are going before the Quebec Labour Relations Board on October 28, 1968 for a certification hearing. We wish them every success in this hearing and with the determination they have shown in the past, the only results can be a victory.

It appears that this group was brushed off as being of little consequence by the O.C.A.W. at first; now they have finally become aware of the fact that they are a force to be reckoned with and they mean business.

They are now stepping up their efforts to discredit them, and to hold on to what they have, but it looks like it's too little, too late.

As anyone who has belonged to an "American" International Union knows, this is about the only way to find out they are still around, and how much interest they have in Canadian workers.

Just start in and form a break-

away movement, the loss of dues alone has the same effect as the red flag on the bull. They will spend all sorts of time, effort, and the Canadian workers' money to make damn sure they belong to a union of THEIR choice.

I am sure this group at Fina is wise and mature enough to know what they want and where they are going, and will not be taken in by any OCAW propaganda. This may sound like an over-simplification of the whole case, but if the OCAW was worth its salt, they wouldn't have to sell it to the workers and try and convince them it was so good, it would sell itself.

The workers in Fina are not the only ones in the Montreal area dissatisfied with OCAW. I understand there are 150 members in Fina, 100 in B.A. marketing, and 450 in Shell for a total of 700 in the Montreal area.

It would be nice to think that this effort by these "Canadian Workers" in Montreal could wake up these poor mis-led "puppets" out here on the west coast. I would like to see them take this up as a challenge, and see if they couldn't outdo their fellow workers in the east in a drive

towards Canadian Unionism.
-- ex-O.C.A.W.

Editor, Progressive Worker

I subscribe to and read assiduously your "Progressive Worker" and I admire it very much for its humane contents.

However, may I please be excused if I criticize the many grammatical and rhetorical errors, and also the many unintentional and intentional mistakes in spelling. One of these days I will pluck up enough courage to re-read the October 1968 issue and circle in red ink each and every grievous error. On page 22, for example, in the upper left-hand corner, there appears the word "oborously." Should this word have been "laboriously?"

Surely, your proofreader ought to be able to catch the mistakes in spelling. I am NOT referring to the many words spelled a little differently in England and Canada, and another way in the United States.

Yours very truly,

P.F.
U.S. subscriber

(Editor's note: Thank you for your criticism. The typography has been very poor but we are making a serious effort to improve it.)

Subscribe Now

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

12 issues \$1.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____



JOE HILL

On November 19, 1915, Joel Emmanuel Haaglund, better known in the labour movement as Joe Hill, was executed by firing squad in the prison yard of the Utah State Penitentiary.

He had been charged with murder in the death by shooting of a former policeman turned grocery owner. Circumstantial evidence supported the charge against him, but there was no doubt that his trial was a kangaroo court and a complete miscarriage of justice. Far from trying a simple murder case, the state of Utah was placing the IWW and the entire labour movement on trial in attempting to convict Joe Hill.

His major crime was that he was an active member and popular song writer of the IWW, which was waging a relentless struggle against low wages, exploitation, militarism -- in short, against the capitalist ruling class. His militant songs were sung in many places and many languages, wherever the workers' fight was being carried on.

Even in prison, Joe Hill continued to write songs for the workers and to organize the movement, while for twenty-two months the campaign went on to have his death-sentence reversed. But all appeals were left unheeded: the Governor of Utah, as he put it after the execution, was determined to rid the state of the "lawless" element," the labour organizers.

Hill became a great martyr of

the workers' struggle for liberation. Characteristic of his indomitable spirit were the lines he addressed to one of his comrades on the last day before his death: "Goodby, Bill. I die like a true blue rebel. Don't waste anytime mourning. Organize."

And his friend's reply could

well serve as Joe Hill's epitaph: "Goodby Joe. You will live long in the hearts of the working class. Your songs will be sung wherever workers toil, urging them to organize."

PW commemorates the fifty-third anniversary of Joe Hill's death by publishing one of his songs.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, AWAKEN!

Workers of the world, awaken!
Break your chains, demand your rights.
All the wealth you make is taken
By exploiting parasites.
Shall you kneel in deep submission
From your cradles to your graves?
Is the height of your ambition
To be good and willing slaves?

If the workers take a notion,
They can stop all speeding trains;
Every ship upon the ocean
They can tie with mighty chains;
Every wheel in the creation,
Every mine and every mill,
Fleets and armies of the nation
Will at their command stand still.

Join the union, fellow workers,
Men and women, side by side;
We will crush the greedy shirkers
Like a sweeping, surging tide.
For united we are standing,
But divided we will fall;
Let this be our understanding --
"All for one and one for all."

Workers of the world, awaken!
Rise in all your splendid might;
Take the wealth that you are making,
It belongs to you by right.
No one will for bread be crying,
We'll have freedom, love and health
When the grand red flag is flying
In the Workers' Commonwealth.