

# **Progressive Worker**

MARCH-APRIL 1969 VOL. 5 NO. 5-6 TEN CENTS.

**CANADA-NUCLEAR SHOOTING GALLERY**   
**COMPUTER SMASHING AT SIR GEORGE**   
**NEW N.L.F. OFFENSIVE  EXPLOITATION**  
**OF ALTA. SERVICE STATION OPERATORS**   
**LABOUR IMPERIALISM  AND MORE**



**THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE**

# Progressive Worker

The Progressive Worker is the monthly paper of the Progressive Workers Movement (35 East Hastings St., Vancouver 4, BC). Subscriptions are \$1.00 for one year. The chairman of the editorial board is Jack Scott.

## CANADIAN REPORT:

Canada--Nuclear Shooting Gallery.....	page 3
Computer Smashing at Sir George.....	page 5
Canadian Briefs.....	page 7
Apologist for Imperialism.....	page 8
Postal Rates Hurt Canadian Papers.....	page 9
Post Office Insolvent?.....	page 10

## TRADE UNION SECTION:

The Winnipeg General Strike.....	page 11
Service Station Operators Exploited.....	page 16
Union Briefs.....	page 17

## WORLD STRUGGLE:

Around the World.....	page 18
-----------------------	---------

## VIETNAM:

New N. L. F. Offensive.....	page 19
Statement of the N. L. F.....	page 20

## THE UNITED STATES:

Strikes and U. S. Aggression.....	page 21
Dow and I. G. Farben Merge.....	page 22
Meany's Labour Imperialism.....	page 22

## THE SOVIET UNION:

Nuclear Threat on China.....	page 23
C. P. Stand on Sino-Soviet Dispute.....	page 23



## NOTE TO READERS:

We have not been able to publish correspondence in the last two issues, due to the fact that we have had much more material submitted than room to print it. (The P. W. will return to its regular monthly publishing schedule next issue.) Nevertheless, we appreciate the comments and suggestions from our readers, as well as first-hand accounts of conditions in other parts of the country.

Several of the recent letters are from people who have only recently found out about our magazine. There are no doubt many Canadians who do not presently get P. W. but who would subscribe if they knew about it. Any of our readers knowing people who might be interested in reading P. W. should send us their address and we will mail them a sample copy.

\* \* \*

On page 11 there is a special article on the Winnipeg General Strike. P. W. M. in Vancouver is having a forum to mark the anniversary, and there may still be time enough for people in other parts of the country to organize some kind of event to help focus the attention of Canadians on the history of our own working class.

\* \* \*

The best news on the International front since our last issue is the great Spring Offensive of the N. L. F. in Vietnam. The short introduction and the N. L. F. statement (pages 19 and 20) are being reprinted by P. W. M. as a leaflet for the anti-war marches on the Easter weekend--particularly for the anti-imperialist march on April 5.

\* \* \*

P. W. is one of the many Canadian publications hurt by the new postal regulations. Our open letter to the Postmaster-General is reproduced on page 9.

# CANADIAN REPORT

## CANADA-NUCLEAR SHOOTING GALLERY

One would expect that if the military-defense policies of one country seriously endangered the peace and the very lives of the population of another country, then the government of this second country would at least express vigorous and public doubts, if not alarm, at the wisdom and justice of such policies. This seems not to be the case with the newly-announced nuclear threat of American missiles over Canada, and the Trudeau government. Rather than express opposition, Trudeau merely flies to Washington, charms the American rulers and the bourgeois press, shrugs his shoulders, and returns to Canada.

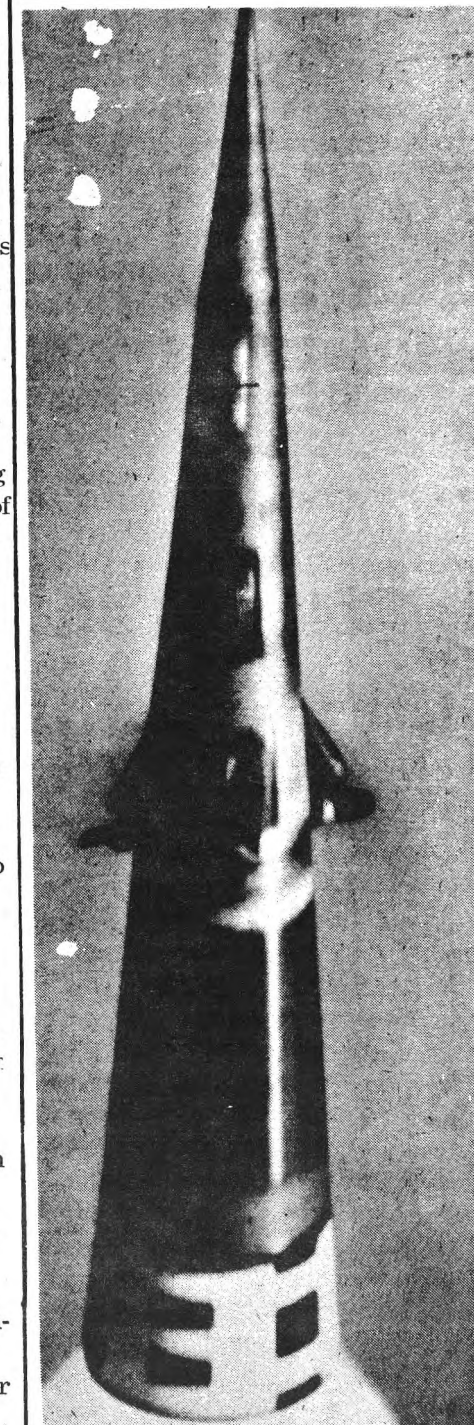
The crisis centers around the decision of the Nixon administration to construct an anti-Ballistic Missile System (ABM), at a cost of at least \$7 billion. The theory behind the ABM system is that it will intercept in the atmosphere and destroy any ballistic missiles that may be aimed at the United States. So we have the potential of two nuclear warheads exploding simultaneously in mid-air. But not in the air-space over the territory of the U. S. : that could be dangerous.

In a measure designed to protect themselves from the possibility of a double nuclear explosion the U. S. military strategists are casting Canada in the role of sacrificial lamb. If an explosion is to occur, it is to take place over Canada. In the military plans of the American strategists we are expendable--Canada, the economic colony of the Yankee traders, is to be turned into a

shooting gallery. Knowing how prone the U. S. militarists are to having nuclear accidents on other people's territory and how ready they are to threaten the use of nuclear weapons to facilitate their aggressions around the globe, Canadians have rather bleak prospects for peace of mind.

Construction sites for the ABM installations are to be close to the Canadian border, and close to our border will rest these missiles--with the itchy and nervous finger of the American military trembling on the trigger. But as Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird tells us, we have no right to question or criticize this U. S. decision to place our safety in grave jeopardy. To put it bluntly: it is none of our damn business what the master does with his property. He has been generous enough to inform us of the plan to use our air-space as a nuclear shooting gallery, so what more can we ask of those who own our very lives? After all, flights of nuclear bombers have occurred daily over our territory for years now.

Canada's first minister, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, on his return from his pilgrimage to Washington, expressed sentiments that were fully in accord with the above-mentioned views of Melvin Laird. In his report to Parliament Trudeau said that the missile system was based entirely on U. S. territory and was therefore completely within U. S. jurisdiction. We have, according to Mr. Trudeau, neither protested nor agreed to the U. S. missile plan. Apparently we are



'Sprint' missile: Aimed at Canada.

to remain neutral and silent right to the graveyard.

There is one comforting thought which we can contemplate as we await with quiet dignity our nuclear incineration: The weapons poised for our destruction may well be armed with Canadian uranium and include other material of Canadian origin. The recent strike of rich uranium deposits in Quebec are controlled by Johns Manville a United States company, which means it is available to the U. S. war establishment to make bombs to explode over our heads. The Canadian capitalist class has reached the ultimate in treachery in their drive to make a fast fast buck from the sellout of the nation. For a quick profit to themselves they will give the aggressor access to material that can destroy us.

This intolerable situation derives from our almost total subservience to U. S. imperialism. Our ruling class have, to one degree or another, supported every American act of aggression for more than twenty years past. Now they have reached the logical end of every class that survives on exploitation: they have now acquiesced in this act of aggression against Canada herself. Ruling class commitments to NATO and NORAD, and the supply of material to use in the war of aggression in Vietnam logically lead to offering our whole population as hostages to the war policies of the American masters.

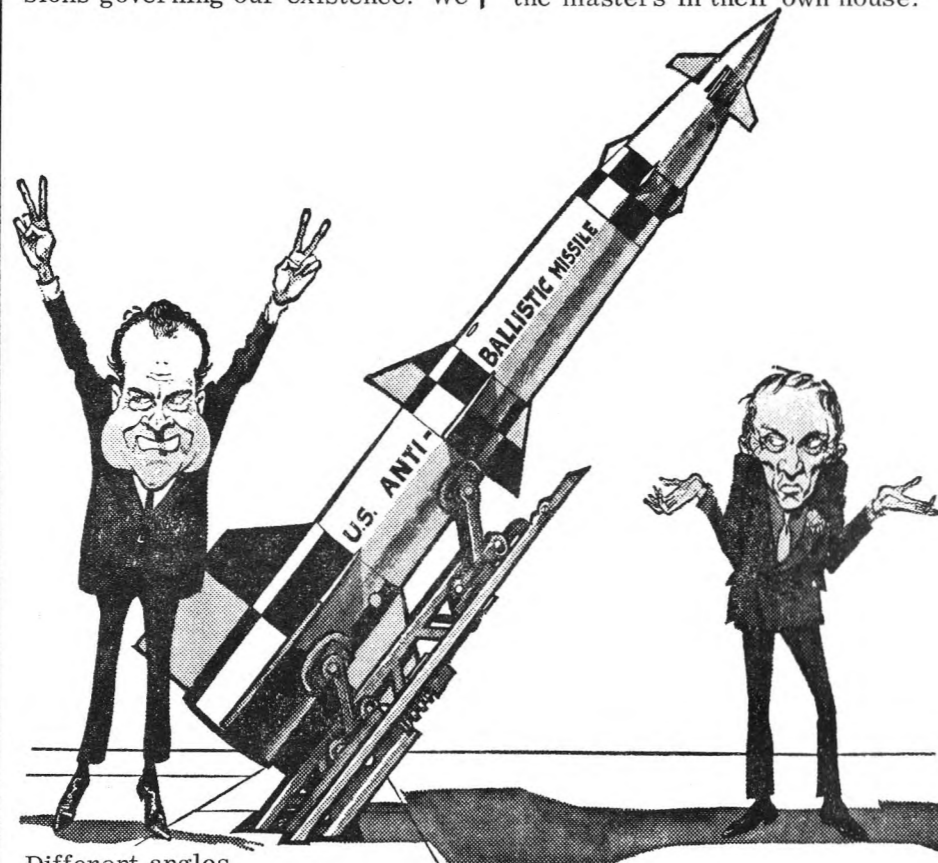
If we have any regard whatever for our own future we will insist on a complete break with and resistance to U. S. aggression. We must reject Laird's arrogant declaration that it is of no concern to Canada where the United States locates its ABM system. Even more vigorously, we reject and condemn Trudeau's endorsement of the Laird position. When a nuclear system with a range of 400 miles is located on our border, and pointed in our direction, the

missiles have nowhere to explode but in the airspace over Canadian territory--and this constitutes an act of aggression against the Canadian people, justifying not only expressions of concern, but any action we may decide to take in order to rectify the situation.

Canada must stop serving those who think so lightly of our very lives and who dismiss so disdainfully our right to make the decisions governing our existence. We

must stop the flow of our raw materials to those who forge the weapons of our own destruction from these materials.

Clearly, our first task is to rid our house of the government lackeys who see their job as facilitating the sale of our country to the U. S., and of the U. S.-owned and operated companies that tie our economy so closely to U. S. imperialism. Canadians must become the masters in their own house!



Different angles.

## Progressive Worker SUBSCRIBE

12 issues \$1.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

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



## COMPUTER SMASHING AT SIR GEORGE



Riot squad attempts to enter Sir George Williams University Feb. 11.

The general press and government outcry against the computer-smashing at Sir George Williams University Feb. 11 has managed to bury the basic reasons for the outbreak--faculty and administration betrayal of student attempts to get a fair hearing for their charges of racism against a professor.

Let us state from the first that we do not agree with the smashing of the computers, because it achieved nothing. However we cannot join in the hypocritical outcry of the capitalist press. The cost of the computers is peanuts compared to the cost of disgusting giveaway programs like the Kaiser coal deal, in which Canadians subsidize the economic domination of our country by the United States. And if the capitalist press wants to deal with the subject of destruction, it would be refreshing if they would turn one-hundredth part of their fury away from the students and onto the American militarists

whose whole lives are devoted to amassing and deploying means of destruction.

Contrary to what many Canadians would like to believe, racism in North America isn't confined to certain regions south of the U. S. border. Canada has its 'liberal' racists (like the Sir George Williams administrators) and its outright bare-faced bigots (like the counter-demonstrators who paraded outside the university with signs like 'Niggers Go Home', etc.). Along with Indians and other minorities in Canada, black people in Montreal have long had many causes for complaint--such as job and housing discrimination. In a typical example of the 'justice' that minorities receive, two students, both first offenders, appeared in court for 'causing a disturbance' outside the university. The white student was let go on \$25 bail, while the black student's bail was \$75.

The history of the Sir George

affair dates back to April of last year when several black students complained to the dean of students that biology professor Perry Anderson was guilty of racial and academic discrimination against them.

Investigation by the dean dragged on until June, when after a meeting between the students, Anderson, and administration officials, the charges were declared by the administration to be 'unfounded'.

Over the summer and early fall students remained dissatisfied and pressed the dean for his promise of a further meeting, a promise that was never kept.

In December students occupied the office of the biology department chairman, demanding a faculty investigation committee of five members who were acceptable to both sides.

An investigation committee of two black professors, two whites, and an Indian was finally agreed upon, and received the official

backing of the administration, faculty, and students.

On January 6, a letter was sent from vice-principal John O'Brien to Anderson, advising him not to resume teaching because of the 'risk of violence' from the black students involved. The black students, who at all times remained non-violent, were incensed at what they called the 'distortion and threat to us' implicit in the letter.

On Jan. 10 the investigation committee chairman resigned, and the administration refused to accept the black students' choice of a replacement, or their demand that the committee hearings be open.

On Jan. 22, the two black professors on the committee resigned saying the committee was ineffective, and the black students met with O'Brien the next day and received a voluntary written apology for his Jan. 6 letter. But one week later, O'Brien initiated civil proceedings against three of the black students for 'force, extortion, and forcible detention' in the obtaining of the apology.

The next day, the administration filled the vacancies on the committee without consulting the students, so the blacks then boycotted committee hearings the following week.

On Jan. 30, approximately 300 students occupied the computer centre, vowing to stay until the following demands were met:

"(1) That the hearing committee and its subsequent proceedings be totally and publicly rejected;

"(2) That the administration arrange a meeting of themselves, Anderson, and ourselves to settle the composition of a hearing committee, the procedures under which any such hearing will be conducted and the date and time of such a hearing;

"(3) That any such hearing be held in an atmosphere free of all threats of reprisals and other primitive measures, judicial, educational, or otherwise;



Fires blaze briefly on ninth floor.

"(4) That due consideration be given to those Caribbean students who have lost study time due to their brotherly devotion to this cause over the last few months;

"(5) That all criminal charges of all black students be dropped immediately."

The students did not occupy the actual computer room itself, allowing technicians in to ensure that temperature and humidity of the sensitive machines remained acceptable.

In a meeting of more than 800 members of the Sir George student body, the demands were supported almost unanimously. The students council and science students association also rejected the existing committee.

The faculty, however, voted to support the administration.

The committee continued to meet in secret, with blacks maintaining their boycott, and O'Brien refusing to drop his charges against the three.

Over the weekend of Feb. 8 and 9, administration negotiators met with representatives of the occupiers and hammered out an agreement--acceptance of the five demands by the administration.

The students, sensing victory, began planning victory celebrations. But the administration passed the buck to the faculty for final

ratification of the agreement--which a stormy general meeting of the faculty rejected Feb. 10.

Student feeling of betrayal was heightened by an administration decision to call the police early Feb. 11. A first attempt by regular police to clear the building was repelled by occupiers with fire hoses.

The approximately 100 students left in the building, tired and frustrated by the long occupation ending in betrayal, and encouraged by their first victory over the police, vowed to fight on to victory.

As the special riot squad moved in for the final arrests, some of the occupying students threw typewriters, computer cards, and other equipment nine stories to the street below, and smashed up the two computers. Fires blazed briefly in the building.

The 97 students arrested were held without bail for at least eight days, some of them much longer, on charges of conspiracy to commit mischief and conspiracy to commit arson, punishable by imprisonment of from five years to life.

Some lessons can be learned from the Sir George incident--among them, the unwillingness of bureaucratic authorities to deal honestly with problems created by the social system; the lackey role of the faculty in betraying student struggles; and the willingness of the state to resort to force to maintain control in its institutions. (Remember that the computers were smashed after the police began moving in. Many newspapers tried to make it appear that the police moved in because the computers were smashed.

There are also important lessons to be learned about the student movement itself. For the computer-smashing is merely an extension of a tendency which is very strong among radical elements in Canada (and not only in Canada). In universities across the country relatively small groups of students have engaged in militant, even

spectacular, actions, (most commonly the occupation of administrative offices) in order to wrest particular concessions from university administrators. For success these tactics do not depend so much on popular support as on the ability of the small group to cause administrative inconvenience. Consequently the radicals involved have usually failed to do much serious groundwork to educate even the mass of their fellow students--but especially the off-campus population, which is left to get its information about off-campus issues entirely from the capitalist

press. This has enabled the capitalist press to generate a considerable amount of anti-student feeling, and support or tolerance for repressive measures against students (and, by extension, tolerance for repression in general). Militancy is a good quality, but it cannot be a substitute for mass work.

Weakness in tactics often flows from a lack of clarity on strategy. The struggle to win particular reforms should not be a thing in itself, but should be related to a general perspective. The university, like every other aspect of

Canadian society, suffers from the fact that it is controlled by people whose loyalties belong to the American corporations that dominate the Canadian economy. The problem at the university is to organize large numbers of ordinary students to join in the struggle against U.S. imperialist in Canadian society in general, and in the universities in particular. A program must be developed which will be able to relate the struggle for reforms to the task of building a broad anti-imperialist organization at the university.

## CANADIAN BRIEFS

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES are to be increased from 4 to 8 per cent starting April 1st. In the face of record profits for Canadian Pacific operations and its subsidiaries, it is claimed that increases are necessary to offset a decline in net income due to recent wage settlements. It is well known that profit-making technological advances, both presently in use and contemplated, more than compensate for the limited wage increases. Hardest hit will be the smaller companies which will not be able to take advantage of special bulk rates. The giant U.S. monopolies, and especially the many subsidiaries of CPR, will be in an even more favoured position than before.

STOCK EXCHANGES are acting in a manner reminiscent of the period immediately preceding the 1929 crash. Frantic scenes are being reenacted in the exchanges every day and stocks, often as the result of mergers or rumours of merger, are selling at 20 to 35 times earnings. With earnings generally inflated and at an all time high, they have nowhere to go but down, with many marginal investors and hopeful speculators in line to be caught in the squeeze that will one day cause billions of dollars in paper money to disappear.

AIR FARES, mainly connected with the same companies that operate the railroads, are also to be substantially increased. Reasons cited for the need to increase are quite revealing in relation to the workings of capitalism. Passenger traffic is "levelling off", that is, profit rates are becoming static. Hence the need for an increase which will undoubtedly result in more "levelling off" and the need for additional increases. Also cited was the fact that the airlines have made available more seating capacity than can presently be used in Canada, so fares must be raised to defray the cost of the unneeded space. Such is the efficiency and logic of the capitalist system.

STUDENT graduates, to the number of about 70,000 in 1969, will find it more difficult than ever to get permanent placement in the economic and industrial life of the nation. U.S.-controlled plants making up the major portion of Canadian industry are resorting to a policy of increasingly concentrating research and other advanced engineering and technological activities to the United States. This spells less availability of jobs for university graduates in Canada. Stock mining operations have more

need of bulldozer and drag-line operators and labourers than university trained personnel.

MERGERS are at the top of the news these days. Big monopoly companies are speedily acquiring control of independent companies, and sometimes even chains that have already merged. As a result of mergers the total number of companies is dropping although production has been expanding. In Ontario, the most highly industrialized area in Canada, there are 1,100 fewer companies now than there were ten years ago--despite new company formations of between 150 and 175 per year during the period. This indicates that more than 3,000 companies have been eliminated over the ten years--many by way of mergers, others forced out of business by the new conglomerates. Studies reveal that large and wealthy shareholders inevitably profit immensely from a merger while the minority shareholders get much less and are seldom, if ever, consulted on the terms of acquisition.

ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN is forecast by expert economists in the United States, in testimony given to the Senate-House Economic Committee. Unemployment is expected

to rise well above the relatively low level at which it has been held by war production and the heavy armed services draft for the war in Vietnam. Black workers in the United States will be hit first and

hardest by any such development, but Canada's captive economy will no doubt be a close second as U.S. union bureaucrats move to protect jobs for U.S. labour and

ditch their Canadian brothers in the so-called "Internationals." Just a slight dislocation in the American economy could have serious adverse effects in Canada.

## APOLOGIST FOR IMPERIALISM

After a season as Prime Minister of Canada, during which the United States monopolies strengthened their hold on the Canadian economy, Lester B. Pearson has enthusiastically accepted a new appointment as international carpetbagger for U.S. imperialism. Officially appointed to head a commission of the U.S. dominated World Bank, (with the task of preparing the ground for U.S. economic penetration disguised as "aid"), Lester B. doubles as "philosopher" of imperialist internationalism.

"Lester Pearson expressed the hope Sunday night that nations will subordinate individual freedoms with an international community in the interests of world peace and progress" began a recent Canadian Press report from London, England. The former Canadian Prime Minister was speaking on a BBC radio program, part of a series of six talks he is giving on the British network. Now, a united a prosperous world community is indeed an ideal we can all cherish. But is this what Pearson was really speaking about? Let us examine his words more closely. "The problem today," he said, "is not the creation of new free states, but subordinating the sovereign of all states to the necessity of peace, security, and progress." Again these are noble words—until we place them against the realities of the existing international situation. Even a fleeting glance at the political map of the world will reveal two great powers exercis-

ing direct or indirect control over most countries on the globe. It will reveal that in fact most of the world is divided between two empires, the American and the Soviet, with the Americans controlling Latin America, India, Indonesia, and a host of other Asian countries, much of so-called "independent" Africa, and Western Europe, while the Russians jealously guard their Eastern European domains and attempt to extend their influence in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Any attempt on the part of the subject nations to escape the imperialists' rule is met by swift and brutal military intervention, as witness the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia this summer, the American invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965, and of course the genocidal war the U.S. is waging against the people of Vietnam.

It would seem that in a world



such as this the problem is precisely the creation of new free states and not, as Pearson states, the "subordinating the sovereign freedom of all states to the necessity of peace, security, and progress."

How can we talk about peace, security, and progress so long as the vast majority of the world's peoples suffer the oppressions of foreign imperialisms? If the Vietnamese had kept the peace that would have been the peace the imperialist needed to exploit their country unopposed; if the Cubans had kept the peace that would have guaranteed the continued ability of the U.S. to rob their country unopposed; if the rest of the world's peoples keep the peace, that will guarantee the peace, security, and progress of the imperialists—and the continued poverty and oppression of the subject peoples. But of course the oppressed peoples have no intention to maintain the peace of the oppressor—and this is what Mr. Pearson seems to be afraid of. Through their victorious struggle, the Vietnamese people are creating a new free state, and Mr. Pearson seems concerned lest the example should catch on. After all, is there not a national group in his own country which seems more and more inclined to struggle for national self-determination? And are there not more and more English Canadians, too, who are becoming opposed to the domination of their country by the United States?

## POSTAL RATES HURT CANADIAN PAPERS

Mr. Eric Kierans,  
Postmaster General.

Sir:

Our journal, the Progressive Worker, is among the more than 2500 Canadian publications losing under the new mailing regulations recently adopted by your department. We would like to strongly protest these regulations because, as we shall show, they discriminate against Canadian publications, particularly the smaller ones, and thus put the American publications, which already flood our country, in an even more favourable position. Furthermore, these new regulations are not even applied in a fair and consistent way—some favoured publications manage to continue mailing at the lower rate.

First let us call your attention to the discriminatory way in which the act applies. In the letter cancelling our mailing privileges you give as the sole reason for action the fact that it is published by an association. Yet other associations continue to enjoy these mailing privileges which we are denied.

Journals published by the Catholic Church still have access to second class mailing. Surely no one can deny that the Catholic Church is an association of people who share a common belief in Catholicism, and that their publications are the official voice of the Church. To give one example: "The B. C. Catholic", which openly declares it serves "as the official newspaper of the Vancouver Archdiocese", continues to be handled at second class rates. This is a situation which demands explanation, especially since both yourself and the Prime Minister of Canada are known adherents of the particular religious association in question.

We hasten to add here that we are not demanding equalization of treatment of denial of second class mailing privileges to "The B. C.

Catholic". On the contrary, we say these should be retained by them. But equality of treatment we do want. An equality to be brought about by a return to the condition that prevailed before your tenure in office began.

It appears also that all of the large business journals are continuing to enjoy their former status with the postal department. On the theory that these are not "association" newspapers or journals you have been pleased to continue the previous arrangement. It should be relatively easy for a man with your experience in the business world to appreciate the point that all such journals are published by associations of capitalists whose primary interest is to make money—and that their publication furthers the interests of their associations by disseminating propaganda aimed at maintenance of the political and economic status quo. Why not, therefore, apply the association rule—especially since they are so well equipped to pay?

A most important consideration that must already occur to you is that the new regulations guarantee benefits to publications that are mainly foreign owned, and whose contents favour strongly the interests of another country—interests which are inimical to our own national well-being. U.S. magazines pay lower rates at their mailing point, while the cost of delivery is borne by the Canadian taxpayers. Benefitting by these privileges, publications owned in the United States—whose domination of our economy is virtually total—are able to flood us with their propaganda. May we remind you of the words of the Saxon rebel in "Ivanhoe" who said, in reference to the Norman invader of the Saxon land; "They first conquered us with their culture". Our land is in the process of being conquered by an alien

culture—that of the United States—a fact all the more damaging in view of the massive penetration of our economy by United States capital. Yet you adopt measures which result in the destruction of independent Canadian publications, while you, at the same moment, use Canadian tax money to subsidize the cost of distributing United States propaganda to our people. Are we to look upon this type of activity as your patriotic duty? And if so, patriotism to what country?

A case in point is the journals of the trade union movement. Some of your cabinet members have criticized U.S.-dominated international unions for failing to serve the needs of the Canadian people. The criticism is absolutely correct although it obviously springs from a desire to win votes from the NDP rather than any desire to see a strong Canadian union movement. This is shown particularly by the effect the new postal regulations will have on the publication of union newspapers in Canada. Canadian newspapers are hard hit, with an increase of up to 2700 per cent (from 1 3/4 cents per pound to 5 cents per copy.) International unions, on the other hand, continue to benefit from the much lower mailing rates in the U.S. (This is true even when the paper is mailed to Canadian members, and the delivery is paid for by Canadian taxpayers.)

Some international unions presently have separate papers for their Canadian membership. While these are usually under tight editorial control of international representatives appointed from the U.S. nevertheless some genuinely Canadian content occasionally manages to creep into them. Now, however many of these papers will cease publication altogether and the Canadian membership will have to

be content with a small section of stale Canadian news printed in the American paper. (International unions, like Pulp-Sulphite, that are struggling to hang onto their remaining Canadian membership will probably need for propaganda reasons to continue with a separate Canadian paper--but this will be at the expense of what few services they presently offer Canadian members.)

The Prime Minister has lately been making considerable mileage out of glowing phrases having to do with "freedom of expression" and "the free exchange of ideas." Talk is cheap. Actual practice, as demonstrated by your postal regulations, is something quite different.

The small publications which offer the most challenging ideas, those most in conflict with the status quo, are all published by small groups of people upon whose finan-

cial support they depend for survival. It is precisely these, the journals with the greatest spirit of independence, that the new postal regulations visit with the lightening bolt of destruction. If the golden words of our very articulate Prime Minister had any real meaning they would be put into practical application which, in this area, would mean greater measures of support, rather than your present policy aimed at silencing these voices of dissent.

The changes you have made cannot result in any sizeable increase in post office revenue--indeed the reverse will likely be the case. In instances like the aforementioned trade union journals ceasing publication, revenue will drop while number of American journals being delivered to Canadian members will increase. Other Canadian journals may be financially forced to get printing and mailing done in

the U. S.

In any event, the cost of delivery of the various small national publications put out by associations is insignificant compared to the cost of delivering, say TIME magazine.

The load on Canadian taxpayers is not lightened by these measures, and as citizens who want to become informed as to what's going on in our own country, we lose. The new postal regulations are contrary to Canada's national interest, and contribute to the domination of our country by U. S. imperialism.

We say that the present intolerable situation should be changed by restoring mailing privileges to all those publications which formerly enjoyed them. We await with some interest, and much concern your reply to these matters

J. Scott,  
for Progressive Worker.

## POST OFFICE INSOLVENT?

Post office going broke? According to Postmaster-General Eric Kierans the till is so empty he can no longer afford to carry Progressive Worker at second class rates. That is pretty darn broke!

But the Postmaster-General seems to have a special piggy-bank hidden away to take care of emergencies.

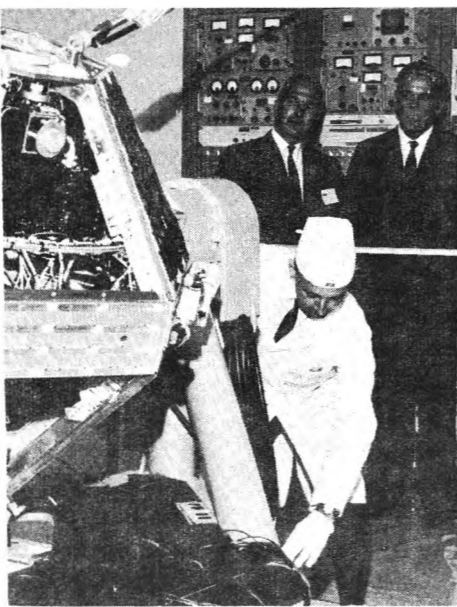
An emergency has just arisen and the piggy-bank is about to be tapped for a sizeable sum. The honourable Mr. Kieran's capitalist brothers want a more up-to-date communications system--one that operates via satellite--at an initial minimum cost of \$65 million to install. Operating costs?--presently unknown. The "free enterprisers" have no wish to be stuck with the bill so Mr. Kierans has obliged his friends by attaching communications to the Postal Department, which will pay the cost of installation and take care of any deficit

from operations.

Satellite communications are strictly for big business. In capitalist society the ordinary mortal never gets a chance to make use of them. Since Canada's economy is thoroughly dominated by U. S. monopoly the Postmaster-General's new venture means the Canadian taxpayer will be called on to subsidize communications installed for the almost exclusive use of Yankee carpetbaggers. It seems Kieran's philosophy is: "What's good for Standard Oil, Morgan, du Pont, et al, is good enough reason to milk Canada."

The initial \$65 million--not to mention the size of a possible deficit--would have for many years taken care of the modest annual deficit Kierans claims result from second class mail. But the Yankee investor must be looked after, so Canada's voices of dissent are chopped off. The independent and labour press is considered expen-

dable in the name of "economy". But no economy measures must be allowed to stand in the way of a \$65 million expenditure on behalf of big business.



Kierans views his latest subsidy to big business.

# TRADE UNION SECTION

## THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

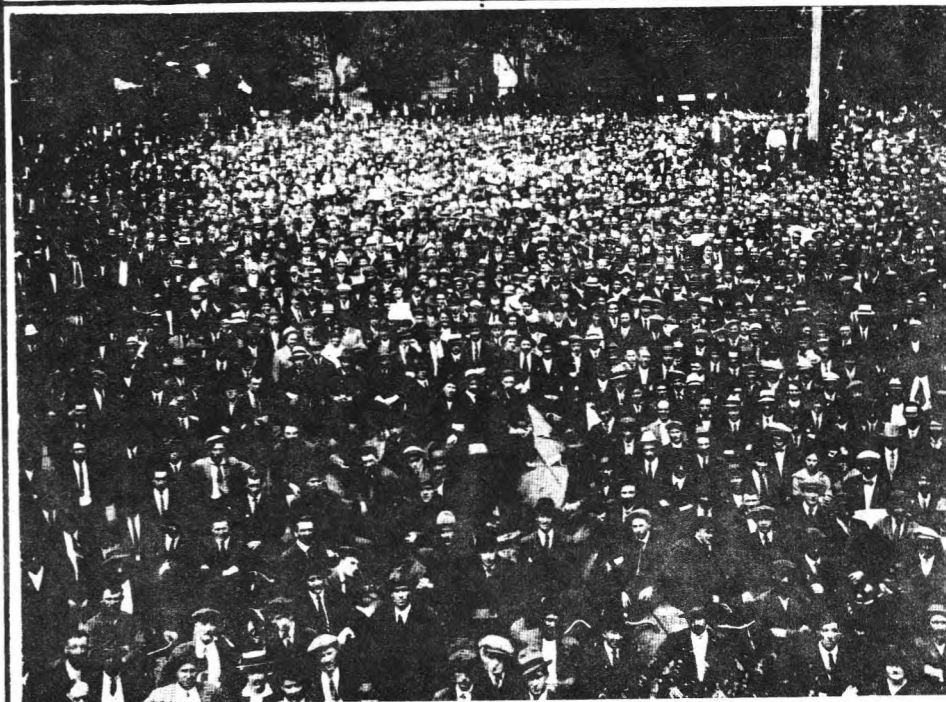
May of this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Sympathetic Strike--probably the greatest, and certainly one of the most important struggles in the history of Canadian labour. It is significant, but by no means unexpected, that the trade union movement seems quite prepared to ignore the passing of this historic date. There is too much detail the U. S. craft unions would prefer to forget for them to undertake the task of preparing a celebration with some real meaning.

### SEDITIONOUS CONSPIRACY

On June 17, 1919, the Attorney-General of Manitoba ordered the apprehension and arrest, in the early hours of the morning, of 13 men involved in various offices of the general strike then in progress in the city of Winnipeg.

The prosecution alleged that these men were engaged in planning a revolution and that the general strike was really an attempt to set up a Soviet form of government. The state prosecutor in the case undertook to prove that:

- 1) meetings held in Winnipeg in December, 1918, to protest government by orders in council, demand withdrawal of troops from Russia and the release of political prisoners;
- 2) various meetings of the Labour Church in Winnipeg;
- 3) a meeting planned by the Socialist Party, but prevented by rioting soldiers;
- 4) a Calgary convention of unions in Western Canada, held in March 1919;
- 5) the Winnipeg general strike of May-June, 1919;
- 6) the formation of an industrial



Crowds of up to 10,000 rally during the strike in Victoria Park.

organization under the name of the One Big Union to replace the U. S. craft unions; were all connected parts of one huge conspiracy.

Being without a law at the time to "legally" sustain their reactionary anti-labour actions the government in Ottawa made haste to provide one. It has been reported that the Manitoba Attorney-General, protesting that there was no law to cover the arrests, was told by the acting Minister of Justice, "arrest them and we will make a law."

This required "legal" foundation was subsequently provided through an amendment to the Immigration Act. The Act was introduced into parliament, amended, rushed through the Senate, then to the Governor-General for signature, all in the brief space of 45

minutes.

Censorship of labour journals was instituted. The basis of censorship was not whether what was being printed was the truth, but if it was in harmony with government policy.

### THE STRIKE

Returning soldiers, mainly workers, found themselves in the midst of a general economic depression following World War I with the shutting down of the war industry and the capitalists, eager to gouge every nickel of profit from a consumer goods shortage, maintaining prices 300 to 400 per cent above those before the war.

In a futile bid to muzzle growing working class discontent and militancy, months after armistice, many people remained in jail, "guilty" of anti-war agitation, and

wartime bans on free speech and free assembly remained.

Despite outrageous lies in the bourgeois press, the success of the Russian Revolution was looked upon as a beacon and an example to be followed by a large section of the Canadian working class, leading to widespread meetings and demonstrations against the use of Canadian troops in the unsuccessful bid to topple the Soviet government.

In response to the degenerate class collaborationist policies of the "international" craft union bureaucrats of the time, and their Canadian counterparts, both organized and unorganized workers were fighting for industrial unionism, the right to organize, and the six-hour day. In the election to the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council for 1919, pro-industrial unionists captured the executive.

The touching-off point of the strike came May 2, 1919, when metal trade workers, angered by management refusal to recognize their recently-formed industry-wide council and thus stalemated negotiations on wages and working conditions, walked off the job.

One day earlier, building trade workers had struck over similar demands.

Both the Building and the Metal Trades Council reported to the Trades and Labour Council on the refusal of the employers to grant union recognition and to negotiate. A request for a vote on a general strike was advanced and the Council delegates voted to have all affiliates poll their members on the question. By May 13th the Council received a partial report which indicated a strong wave of sentiment for strike action.

The extent of the workers' grievances, and the widespread feeling for militant action, is seen in the fact that more than 24,000 workers responded to the strike call, although not more than 12,000 were affiliated to the Labour Council which issued the call. Even police

voted 149 to 11 to strike.

Employers screamed "Bolshevism" and branded the Strike Committee and its operations as a form of "Soviet". Viewing the growing general crisis of the capitalist system, and keenly aware of the rising tide of revolutionary struggle of the masses of workers, the capitalists were panic-stricken and sought ways and means by which to dam the flood.

Businessmen worked vigorously to win to their side thousands of army veterans recently returned from overseas. To this end executives of the Great War Veterans, Army and Navy Veterans, and the Imperial Veterans of Canada, called a mass meeting of veterans at Convention Hall in the Board of Trade Building. The objective of these servants of the ruling class was the mobilization of the veterans as vigilantes, scabs and strike breakers. However, the rank and file veterans had a different idea. They rejected the resolution proposed by the joint executives and voted almost unanimously for one which supported the strikers' demands and condemned the employers.

The Winnipeg employers formed a vigilante detachment known as the "Citizens Committee of 1000." These reactionary, fascist-type, vigilantes worked hard to stir up an atmosphere of emotional and pseudo-patriotic hysteria among the general population, and especially among middle class elements. To further their objectives they began publishing a propaganda sheet called "The Winnipeg Citizen." Here is one small example of the type of hysterical journalism which this anti-labour journal was noted for:

"... For nearly a month the citizens of Winnipeg have been fighting whole-heartedly and with a very generous measure of success against a determined attempt to establish Bolshevism and the rule of the Soviet here and then to expand it all over this Dominion.

"... When through the machinations of a number of confessed Bolsheviks in the Winnipeg Labour Temple, between twenty and thirty thousand were tricked and betrayed into striking, the issue went right to the heart of the great body of middle class citizens whom the strike leaders sought to deprive of the very necessities of life, of food and water, and of light, police protection and fire protection."

This employer rag printed the names of more than a dozen labour men whom it branded as "Bolsheviks" and about whom it published so-called "information" calculated to arouse the passions of a section of the community and create a lynch atmosphere against strike leaders.

The Committee of 1,000 headed a hard-core opposition to any and all proposals for settlement of the dispute and demanded that all the forces of the state be concentrated on the task of breaking the strike and, ultimately, to smash the feared and hated organizations of labour.

#### "LAW AND ORDER"

The employers' Committee of 1,000 were all for maintaining 'Law and Order', so long as it was their own particular kind of law and order that was being defended. And action or suggestion that proposed to restrict, not to speak of ending, the 'divine right' of the capitalist to exploit workers to the limit of their endurance was unquestionably, in their view, a serious challenge to the forces of "Law and Order."

Instructed by the General Strike Committee, the police union offered to continue policing the city. This offer was rejected on the grounds the police were sympathetic to the strikers. The task of policing was placed in control of the Royal North West Mounted--the state police force--who proceeded to deputize the employers in the Committee of 1,000 whose proclaimed objective was the breaking

of the strike and the smashing of the unions. Now the vigilantes could 'legally' bludgeon strikers and do so in the glorious name of "Law and Order".

It is worth noting that whereas the General Strike Committee consisted of democratically-elected representatives of more than 24,000 workers and many thousands of army veterans, no one ever had a hand in electing the Citizens Committee of 1,000. True to the workings of capitalist democracy in crisis, and in conformity with the special privileges accorded to the ruling class in the capitalist state, each of the Committee's members was self-appointed to preserve and protect capitalist property and the sacred right of the exploiters.

#### CONSPIRACY

There was a veritable flood of propaganda in the business press about an alleged 'Bolshevik conspiracy'. No such conspiracy existed, but another, and very real, conspiracy did indeed exist. It was a conspiracy among employers, and between the employers and the administrators of the state--a conspiracy aimed at smashing the labor movement and depressing wages and working conditions in the

interest of greater profit returns.

At the height of the strike Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior and acting Minister of Justice, accompanied by Senator Robertson the Minister of Labour, left Ottawa by train and headed for Winnipeg to take personal part in breaking the strike. Four representatives of the Committee of 1,000 boarded the train at points some distance east of Winnipeg and conferred with the two Cabinet Ministers.

Evidence of the conspiracy that existed between the two representatives of the capitalist state and the delegates of the Winnipeg group of exploiters can be easily drawn from the sequence of events that occurred subsequent to the arrival of the government ministers in Winnipeg.

(1) Immediately on arriving in the city, and without even making a show of consulting the strike leaders, the two Ministers of the Crown proceeded to denounce the leaders as undesirable agitators anxious to overthrow constituted authority and bring about a revolution.

(2) Three of the four representatives of the Committee of 1,000--A. J. Andrews, K. C.; Issac Pitblado, K. C.; and W. A. T. Sweat-

man, were named leading lawyers in the prosecution of strike leaders for seditious conspiracy.

#### ARREST AND CHARGE

At 3 a. m. on the morning of June 17 the North West Mounted conducted a series of simultaneous and co-ordinated raids on the homes of a number of the foremost leaders of the general strike. Homes were subjugated to exhaustive search and arrests were made. Two of those held, Heaps and Queen, were aldermen of the city of Winnipeg. Included in the charges of seditious libel preferred against all of the arrested men, were the following allegations:

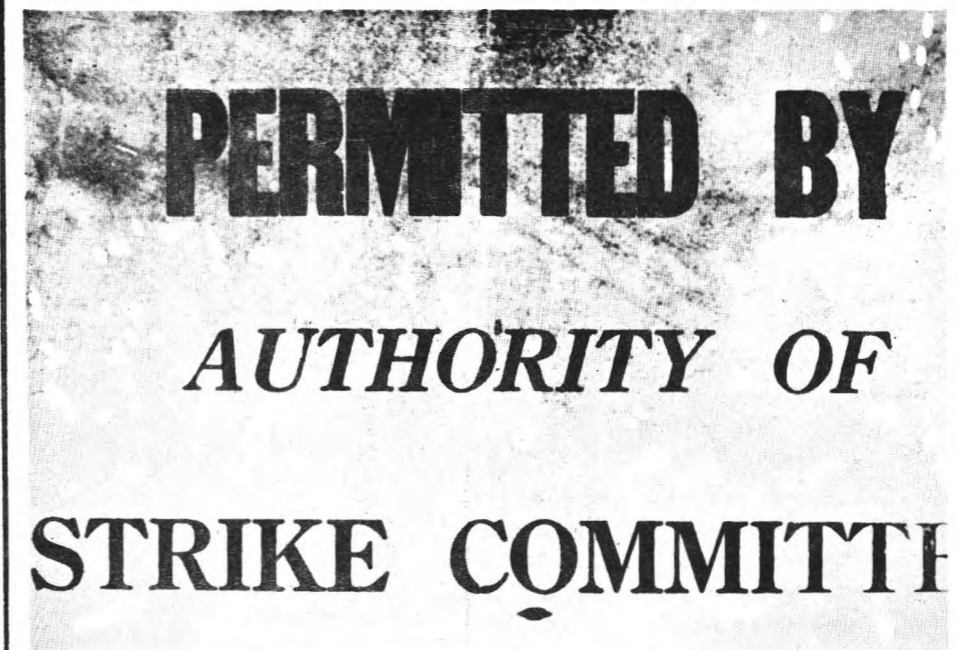
"That they conspired against the person of King George V",

"That they conspired with intent against the constitutional government of Canada",

"That they conspired with intent to oppose the authority of constables appointed by the city of Winnipeg."

This list of criminal charges gives us some idea on how seriously the ruling class views any concerted effort to improve wages and working conditions since the strikers never did have any other objective in mind. As evidenced by the last point on the list it can be seen they even appoint themselves special constables to protect "Law and Order" and make it a crime for workers to resist their brutal and repressive acts.

On Saturday June 21 a 'silent parade' of protest organized by returned soldiers was fired on by the mounted police, who killed one person and wounded about 30 others. That this action was deliberately planned can be gathered from the fact that, on the morning of parade day, Mayor Gray warned that women who participated in the demonstration would do so at their own risk. Following this shooting incident the mounted police were reinforced by soldiers and by special constables from the Committee of 1,000, and the city was declared



Placard carried by milk and bread wagons: Strikers ensured supplies.

to be under military control.

#### PRESS FREEDOM

J. S. Woodsworth, in his capacity as editor of the special strike editions of Western Labour News, was arrested and charged with seditious libel. It was charged, among other things, that Woodsworth "published seditious libels" in the words and figures following:

"Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; to turn aside the needy from judgement, and to take away the right from the poor of my people that widows may be their prey and that they may rob the fatherless."

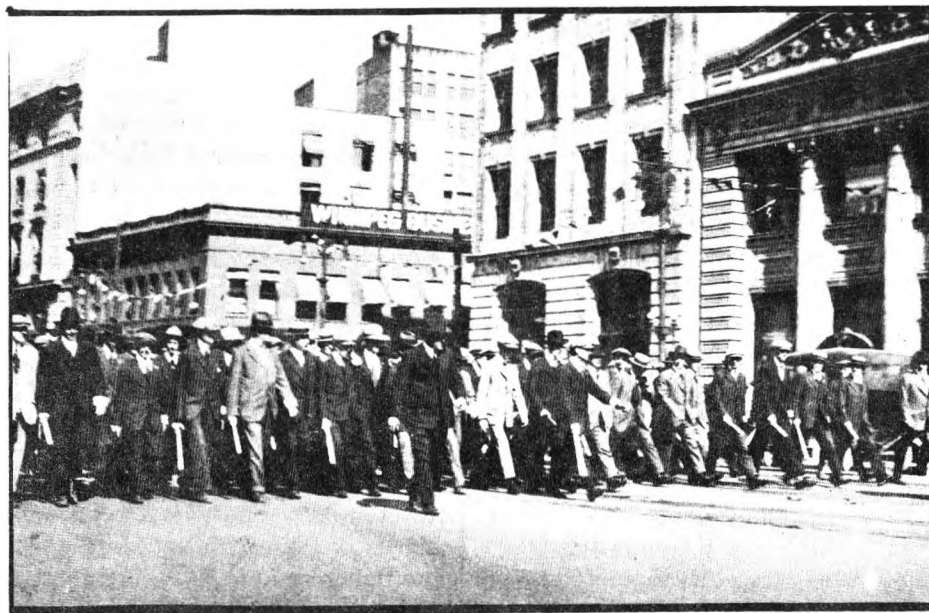
"And they shall build houses and inhabit them, and they shall plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build and another inhabit, they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands."

That two paragraphs quoted from the Old Testament could result in a charge of sedition is an indication of the extent of the hysteria of the ruling class mind in 1919.

F. G. Dixon, member of the Legislative Assembly for Centre Winnipeg, edited the paper from hiding until Woodsworth was released and then submitted himself to arrest. The main charge against Dixon was that he published a seditious libel when he compared the Saturday shooting incident to "Kaiserism."

#### THE END OF THE STRIKE

In the end it was the remaining members of the strike committee, and not the employers or their state forces, that ended the General Sympathetic Strike. On the morning of June 25 the committee, without consulting the strikers, announced that the strike would end at 11 a. m. on June 26. The strikers were indignant and besieged the



Special police marching west on Portage Avenue, June 10, 1919.

Labour Temple with protests. However, the strike, now leaderless, came to a sudden end. The forces of so-called "Law and Order" acclaimed the end as a glorious victory for constituted authority.

Of this claim one historian of the strike wrote:

"Poor blind fools, they thought to match their puny strength against the forces of progress--they are either ignorant of all the lessons of history, or else, like the ostrich, they were satisfied to hide their heads in the sand and ignore the danger they could not see.

"It demonstrated the nature of the class struggle, the ruthlessness and brutality of imperialist capital, the humbug of 'Christianity', the real purpose of military and semi-military bodies. It proved the futility of craft unionism and the need for an industrial organization to meet the changes brought about by machine production. It started men and women to think and to study to realize the power they possessed if they could use it unitedly."

Of those arrested, one was eventually deported and others were sentenced to varying terms in penitentiary. One, a young Ukrainian immigrant, could not be tried for lack of evidence and the prosecutor made an unsuccessful

attempt to have him declared insane and placed in charge of the armed forces. So ended the great Winnipeg General Strike.

#### SOME LESSONS

The chief historic value of the Winnipeg Strike today is in the lessons it contains for Canadian labor. After the passage of 50 years most of these lessons have still not been thoroughly grasped by the working people of Canada.

A most important twin objective of the strike--indeed of the whole labour movement in the West as demonstrated in the Calgary convention that launched the OBU--was to break the dominant hold of the U. S. craft unions, and establish a Canadian industrial union movement that would unite all the workers in one industry and increase their fighting capacity. This is an objective still to be achieved, and more necessary now than ever before with the U. S. conservative craft unions (and even the 'progressive' industrials) playing an open role as supporters of U. S. imperialism.

An important weakness in the strike to be taken note of was its almost total isolation to the city of Winnipeg, with only a few other places, such as Vancouver, acting

in a limited way. This condition was largely due to the efforts of the agents of the U. S. craft unions who acted vigorously to prevent the spread of the strike, which was gaining widespread sympathy across the land. These so-called 'leaders of labour' threatened actions only if it was proved that the authorities were using 'illegal' means to break the strike.

The main leadership of the strike was in control of conservative elements who were dedicated to working within the framework of the existing social system. They insisted on using all the legal chicanery and 'constitutional rules' formulated by the capitalist class. The radicals had only just begun to mobilize the forces and had no time to develop and consolidate their ranks. As soon as these radicals were lodged in jail the conservatives acted speedily to end a situation that was rapidly developing to the point of becoming a challenge to the capitalist state. These conservatives, who supported the capitalist system, once free of radical

pressure in the committee, moved to get things under control and return to 'normal' methods of bargaining where all the advantages are with the employer.

A most outstanding and fundamental lesson of the strike was the practical demonstration of how the ruling class resorts to violence when they consider their positions of power and privilege to be under attack. Even the participant who wrote the passage quoted above, despite his obvious advanced political understanding, did not fully grasp this particular lesson of the strike. The concluding section of the quoted passage reads:

"... and to what extent it was used is proven by the election of three radicals out of seven candidates to the City Council, whilst the labor candidate for Mayor was only defeated by 'repeater' votes and vacant lots."

One point should be abundantly clear from the experience of this and many another strike--that is, that a ruling class that will react in such a violent manner to oppose

just partial and limited demands advanced by the working class, is not about to sit quietly by while we vote them out of existence through the use of their own parliamentary process.

Almost to a man the jailed radicals of 1919 subsequently gained election to one or another public office, yet there was no noticeable shaking in the foundations of the capitalist system because of it. All of them found it possible to become adapted to the social order and developed into ardent defenders of the status quo.

One lesson, above all others, that is taught by this strike is that the workers must prepare themselves to smash the political power of the ruling capitalist class and substitute for it a political and social order that is controlled and directed by the workers alone.

On this 50th anniversary we salute the thousands of workers who fought so valiantly in the Winnipeg strike of 1919.

# P.W. FORUMS



On April 20 P. W. M. will re-institute its Sunday forum program on a regular basis. The first forum will be on the national question: 'the Economic Domination of Canada'. Two weeks later, on May 4, we will have our annual May Day celebration, and two weeks after that, May 18, we will present a forum (with a slide showing) to mark the 50th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. Unfortunately, we have not yet booked halls for these events, but Vancouver area subscribers will be notified by mail of all forums. (Incidentally, if you would like to attend the forums but pick up your copy of P. W. at a news stand, now would be a good time to take out a subscription.) We hope to see many familiar faces of those who regularly attended our previous forums, and many new faces as well.



# SERVICE STATION OPERATORS EXPLOITED

A sordid story of super-exploitation of service station operators by the U. S. -controlled international oil monopolies is the subject of a 744-page report tabled recently in the Alberta Legislature.

Lacking any effective type of organization, the operators are at the complete mercy of the oil companies. The fact that they often think of themselves as independent businessmen does nothing to help them solve their problems.

The report attributes the high financial risks -- often leading to bankruptcy -- long working hours and low incomes to the fact that each operator is tightly bound to one company by onerous contract ties that are practically impossible to break. No dealer can obtain supplies unless he first contracts to handle exclusively the products of a single company, which includes automotive supplies and other items in addition to oil products. The "independent" operator takes all the financial risks works hard for exceedingly long hours for a small margin of profit and is constantly at the mercy of the big oil monopolies who reap all the financial benefit.

Four subsidiaries of the international companies which dominate the world industry own 100% of the refineries in Alberta, and the retail outlets tied to these companies distribute 86% of all retail gasoline in the province. The four companies named are Standard, Gulf Oil, Royal Dutch-Shell, and Texaco. There is every reason to expect that the conditions prevailing in Alberta are substantially the same throughout Canada.

Existing practice in service station operations are all to the advantage of the U. S. -dominated monopolies which reap fabulous profits for a minimum capital risk and no labour-relations problems and no demands for wage

increases and improved working conditions. Needless to say, spokesmen for the oil companies were quick to attack the report. Prairie marketing manager for Imperial Oil (Standard) said he was "astounded by the unfairness and biased nature of the committee's findings." He rejected the report completely and said it could have a very dangerous effect if proposals for massive government interference were taken seriously.

It is doubtful if the Alberta government, long under the thumb of the oil speculators, will do what no capitalist government has yet succeeded in doing -- put a bridle on the oil monopolies.

As usual, wherever workers are under the thumb of the capitalist monopolies, any moves toward easing the plight of the service station operators will have to come from the operators themselves. A first step must be for them to cast off the oil companies' carefully-nurtured illusion of operators as "independent businessmen", and see themselves for what they are -- Canadian workers being



grossly exploited by imperialist oil cartels.

The next step would be to solidly organize themselves to unitedly demand minimum capital, wage, and working condition guarantees from the oil companies -- and in this fight they can look for their major allies in the ranks of their fellow workers, the service station employees, largely unorganized and in an even more exploited position than the operators.

The oil monopolies would be hard-pressed to withstand public outcry against a general strike of service station operators and employees if the strikers maintain solidarity and ensure that their message is gotten across to the public, at the same time making clear that the money for their demands must come from the capitalists' super-profits, and not from the backs of other workers in the form of increased prices.

The federal and provincial governments, working hand-in-glove with the U. S. -dominated exploiters to ensure their freedom of continued exploitation in which the governments have such a large stake, can be counted upon to pass every kind of law and make every kind of threat to try to keep the workers in line, but solidarity and firm support from other workers is an effective answer to such state repression.

Any such activity, however, can only be seen as a stop-gap solution to alleviate the immediate plight of service station operators and employees, a plight that can never be successfully terminated while imperialist oil cartels continue to exploit the natural resources of Canada and many other countries for their own profit-making ends.

True justice will never be done until Canada's oil industry is owned by, and operated in the interests of, all its people.

# UNION BRIEFS

## COST-OF-LIVING GUARANTEE

Steelworkers in Canada are seeking a cost-of-living clause in contracts to be negotiated this year which, despite strong initial employer reaction, can conceivably be won. While steelworkers will then be partially protected from the worst of capitalism's galloping inflation, it certainly does not indicate any gain for the working class as a whole.

A study by the Economic Council of Canada shows a 38.4 per cent growth in worker productivity between 1960 and 1965, while wages remained relatively static. Employers can easily afford to dish out a few drops of this cream in the form of cost-of-living demands to a small portion of the working class if this will keep them pacified. As well, capitalists have a whole variety of methods at their disposal to ensure that the steelworkers' increases cost them nothing at all--technological advances which replace workers, speed-up, sharp price increases, and further exploitation of the large majority of unorganized workers in the country.

Bankrupt union 'leaders' can claim important victories by pointing to such individual income improvements, but only if they ignore the sweated labor practices and large-scale exploitation of the working class as a whole.

A truly class-conscious position would be for all unions to unite in demands for minimum, cost-of-living wages for all working people, and take whatever steps necessary to win and maintain such demands.

But the plain fact is that so long as the capitalist class retain control of the state and the economy they will always be able to take back with the right hand far more than they seem to give with the left.

UNEMPLOYMENT figures rose a startling 21.4 per cent in Montreal during January and show no sign of abating. So all-inclusive has the problem become that it affected those at managerial, administrative and engineering levels

## COLLUSION IN GREED

For a capitalist to call for large-scale, unrestricted strip-mining in B. C. fits nicely into place with their general view that any kind of destruction is justified as long as the profits are high, but to hear a union leader say the same thing may give cause to wonder.

The mystery doesn't last long, however, when it is discovered that the words come from U. S. -appointed United Steelworkers of America bureaucrats.

Working with their senior partners, U. S. firms like Kaiser who intend to make millions of dollars shipping B. C. coal to Japan, these so-called union leaders see 'progress' as anything that makes a few more cents immediately for their members, whatever the long-term cost.

These bureaucrats have asked the NDP (their employees in the political field) to tone down their criticism of proposed strip-mining in B. C., because strip-mining will mean a few jobs.

Restoring land after it has been strip-mined, they add, is also wasteful because it cuts down on

wages the companies can afford to pay.

For blind, narrow-minded greed, this kind of unionist can give lessons to any capitalist.

They seemingly ignore the fact that the only reason the capitalists choose to tear up the land by strip-mining in the first place is to increase their already enormous profits. If they were to demand that the capitalists cut down on even a fraction of their net profit, any number of increases in wages and working conditions could be granted.

And any suggestion that the people of B. C. would benefit far more economically by the establishment of primary and secondary industries to process our raw materials never passes their lips.

But what else can be expected from such U. S. --appointed pork-choppers whose chief qualification for their present job is their unflinching readiness to go along with whatever excess their imperialist partnership to force down the throat of the Canadian people.

Most of the opposition to the proposed strip-mining operations comes from working people disgusted by the rape of Canada by the U. S. companies,

One of the first steps necessary in the fight against U. S. imperialism is the elimination of these misleaders of labour and the establishment of a Canadian labour movement dedicated to national independence and Canadian control of the Canadian economy.



Strip mining in B. C. already underway--Craigmont copper mine.

# WORLD STRUGGLE

## AROUND THE WORLD

**TAIWAN** has long been a military base and a semi-colony occupied by the armed forces of U. S. imperialism. The island is important as a base for aggression against Southeast Asia and a threat aimed at China. But it is also important as an area of exploitation where labour can be had cheaply under Chiang's regime of terror. An example of this is one U. S. - owned company that produces transistor parts. With an investment of only \$1 million the company acquired a plant large enough to contain a staff of 777 girls employed on fairly skilled work. Pay is as low as \$15 per month for work that would cost up to \$100 per week in the United States. Of course it is all in the interests of the safety of the "free world".

**SPAIN** continues to be an arena of strikes, student demonstrations and bloody clashes with police, the army and Falangist thugs. Hundreds of arrests are a daily occurrence and reports of "suicides" in the prison are common. General Franco, 30 years after he imposed his dictatorship, publicly confesses that the Spanish people hate him and his regime, when he declares a State of Emergency preparatory to drowning in blood the rising struggle of the workers and peasants.

Despite the support of the church hierarchy for Franco, Catholic Spain persists in struggle and even scores of priests have been arrested for standing on the side of the people. U. S. imperialism is working hard to shore up the shaky

Franco administration. Already U. S. forces are present in some force manning the military, naval and air bases that are aimed at the Arab world. But the Spanish people who have shown indomitable courage through many years of struggle are determined to be free.

**YUGOSLAVIA** is pushing a campaign to attract U. S. investment capital. The sales talk includes glowing promises of low wages, low production costs and high profits to those willing to invest. Other pleasant prospects to enthrall the ambitious profiteer are the availability of skilled young specialists and lost of free capacity in existing plants.

Dr. Bozidar Linhart, Tito's deputy director of the Bank of Foreign Trade, made a trip to New York for the express purpose of assuring U. S. imperialists of a most friendly reception in Yugoslavia. He told a select group of company representatives that the development of "economic freedom" since the early fifties has resulted in new regulations which guaranteed good profits to foreign companies.

Existing statutes limit foreign ownership to 49 per cent, but this formal "limitation" in no way restricts the foreign investors since they exercise full control over production, marketing, and research under terms of the law. Western capitalists' corporations have been complaining about a law requiring foreign companies to keep 20 per cent of their profits in Yugoslavia. Dr. Linhart

hastened to assure his audience that consideration was being given to easing this "restriction".

Tito and his colleagues are going to have a difficult time trying to convince us that they are building socialism with imperialists in command of the basic sectors of the economy.

**ISRAEL**, as a result of the 1967 aggression, occupies Arab territories that are three times the size of Israel at the time of the 1949 armistice agreement, and four times the size of the territory allotted to the Jewish state by the U. N. General Assembly in 1947. Coming under control of the Israeli capitalists as a result of their aggression are rich oil fields and fertile soil, (scarce in the Middle East), as well as strategic areas. The former Arab population has been driven from the territory which is now being settled by Israelis.

Israeli war needs take up 70 per cent of her total budget and 20 per cent of her Gross National Product—one of the highest ratios in the world. Her aggressive policies in the Middle East are fully supported by the U. S., Britain, and West Germany. Israeli politicians like Moshe Dayan propose an outright fascist "solution" to the Middle East crisis, the complete destruction of the Arab peoples and nations.

Palestine Liberation fighters are gaining in experience and stepping up their resistance to imperialist aggression and for the liberation and independence of their homeland.

# VIETNAM THE GREAT SPRING OFFENSIVE



Buried among the columns of optimistic American press reports from Vietnam, the careful reader can find an occasional hard fact that shows clearly how desperate the situation is for the American military, particularly in the last few weeks. The official U. S. casualty figures have risen sharply—453 American dead and 2593 wounded from Feb. 22 to March 1; 336 dead and 1694 wounded from March 1 to March 8. In spite of attempts to play it down, the American press have had to admit that there is a major offensive under way against the U. S., and they are suffering heavy losses.

The N. L. F. calls this their "Spring Offensive". (The N. L. F., or National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, is the broad organization which, since its formation in 1960, has led the struggle of the South Vietnamese people against U. S. aggression.) The fact that they call it the Spring Offensive, and not the "Tet", or "New Year's Offensive", as last year, is no accident: the intention is obviously to continue this offensive much longer. Judging by the American casualties in the first few weeks, it should be even more devastating.

This year the American military expected the offensive, but they were still unable to prepare any effective counter-measures for it.

Since Feb. 23, when the offensive began, the N. L. F. have attacked military targets in every part of South Vietnam, concentrating on the vital nerve centers of the U. S. Saigon military machine—police and military headquarters, pilot barracks, and airfields, etc. In spite of the vaunted U. S. air power the N. L. F. have positioned heavy artillery around every major and medium-sized U. S. base in Vietnam. American ammunition and weapons depots have been hard hit. Here is the N. L. F. description of one such attack:

"At An Don, three miles east of Danang, the city where American strategic reserve supplies for the whole of central Vietnam are located, the N. L. F. blew up seven huge warehouses and underground dumps causing explosions that continued for ten hours. The powerless American command ordered planes to bomb the whole area to speed up its destruction. Virtually the entire 300 American troops defending the area perished."

\* \* \* \* \*

The recent N. L. F. victories point out once again the fact that the N. L. F. enjoys the support and trust of the vast majority of the South Vietnamese people. The U. S. does not have a single friend outside of the despised Saigon administration. Nobody will tip off the

Americans about N. L. F. movements, but the N. L. F. is supplied with detailed advance information about American operations. In addition, the Vietnamese people help the N. L. F. fighters by feeding them, transporting arms and munitions, and, if necessary, hiding them. By contrast, the Americans find themselves among an almost unanimously hostile population.

The Vancouver Sun (March 13) reprinted a very revealing little item from a talk on the B. B. C. by David Willey. Willey ended his comments on the present situation in Vietnam with the following observation: "meanwhile, a steady flow of wealthy Vietnamese continues to arrive in Paris from Saigon. Three new Vietnamese restaurants have opened in one recent week alone in the French capital!" These 'wealthy Vietnamese' are the ones who made their money by helping the Americans oppress the Vietnamese people. They have stuck with their American masters through the coups that followed Diem's rule, through the growing power of the N. L. F., and the great Tet offensive. Things must be desperate indeed for the Americans if these hardy rats are abandoning the ship.

# STATEMENT OF THE N.L.F.

The following is the full text of the National Liberation Front statement on the Spring Offensive. It was issued on February 27 in reply to U.S. allegations in the American press and at the Paris conference. (The "South Vietnam Army" referred to here is the People's Liberation Army--not the press-ganged, U.S. financed army of the Saigon administration.)

"In face of the repeated attacks by the South Vietnam armed forces and people on the U.S. and puppet strongholds, some officials of the White House and their war-like lackeys in the Saigon puppet administration have made utterly insolent allegations against the South Vietnam armed forces and people, and have blatantly threatened to resume bombing North Vietnam.

"It is public knowledge that the U.S. is the aggressor against South Vietnam and has for many years now used more than half a million U.S. and satellite troops, together with over half a million puppet troops, to conduct an extremely brutal war against the South Vietnamese people.

"Sustaining defeat after defeat and forced unconditionally to end the bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and attend the four-party conference in Paris to find a political solution to the Vietnam problem, the U.S., however, has not stopped pushing its aggressive war against South Vietnam in an attempt to force the people there to accept its neo-colonialist domination.

"Since the four-party Paris Conference began in mid-January, the U.S. has perpetrated countless crimes in South Vietnam. They have mustered all war means for barbarous attacks, increased the flight of B-52's to unleash thousands of bombs daily on populated

areas including those close to Saigon, Da Nang, and other cities. To carry out the accelerated pacification program the U.S. and its puppets have sprayed tens of thousands of tons of toxic chemicals, conducted numerous terror raids, razed many rural areas, burned thousands of houses, killed thousands of civilians, and forced tens of thousands of others into concentration camps.

"In the towns the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration has cracked down on the movement of the working people, students, intellectuals, industrialists and businessmen, Buddhist believers etc., for the return of peace, for democracy, and the improvement of their living conditions. Even during the recent lunar new year days, the U.S. and puppets continued their bloody criminal acts, heedless of the national customs and habits, and of the order of the NLF for suspension of military attacks.

"In North Vietnam, the U.S. has continued its reconnaissance flights and bombardments, savagely killing civilians in many places, thus blatantly encroaching upon the sovereignty and security of the D.R.V.N.

"The crimes of the U.S. and puppets are intolerable! Over the recent days, with the flush of continuous offensive and uprisings, the South Vietnam armed forces and people have dealt due punishing blows at the enemy. Their acts are very necessary, and fully in keeping with the sacred right of

self-defense of a nation, the victim of aggression. Their acts certainly enjoy the sympathy and support of peace and justice-loving people throughout the world.

"The U.S., being the aggressor, must end its aggression and withdraw unconditionally all U.S. and satellite troops from South Vietnam. The U.S. has no right to demand that the South Vietnamese people stop fighting while more than a million U.S. expeditionary troops and troops of its flunkies are daily perpetrating bloody crimes all over South Vietnam.

"By threatening to resume bombing North Vietnam, the U.S. and its hirelings have exposed more clearly their stubborn and warlike nature and are more severely condemned by world public opinion.

"The South Vietnamese people cherish peace, but it must be peace in independence and freedom. The threat of the U.S. and its lackeys decidedly cannot shake the rock-like determination of the 14 million South Vietnamese people to carry through to complete victory their sacred resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

"Should the U.S. refuse to draw a lesson from its failure in the past years and instead obdurately intensify its aggressive war against South Vietnam, adventurously escalate its war to North Vietnam and sabotage the Paris Conference on Vietnam, it would invite upon itself yet greater and more bitter defeats."

**WORLD'S BEST SELLERS!! . . . THE ORIGINAL ENGLISH QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG**  
RED PLASTIC COVER 50c

SELECTED MILITARY WRITINGS  
(1 VOLUME)  
CLOTH 3.00  
PAPER 2.00

SELECTED WORKS OF MAO TSE-TUNG  
(CLOTH + PAPER EDITIONS)  
4 VOLUMES  
CLOTH 11.00 SET  
PAPER 7.20 SET

Busts of Chairman Mao  
9" high-porcelain \$3.00

ORDER FROM

**CHINA ARTS & CRAFTS LTD.**  
33 EAST HASTINGS STREET, VANCOUVER 4, B.C.

# THE UNITED STATES

## STRIKES AND U.S. AGGRESSION

In the United States during the past year or two, numerous strikes have taken place in industries vital to the many U.S. acts of aggression all over the world--particularly the full-scale war against the people of Vietnam. Longshoremen on both coasts and in gulf ports have conducted lengthy strikes as have railroad workers, truck drivers, workers in helicopter plants etc.

As a general rule strikes that take place in time of war are on a high political level and include demands related to the war. However, these strikes in the United States have been on an extremely low level so far as working-class content is concerned. In every strike that has taken place since U.S. forces entered Vietnam in large numbers, workers have concentrated their efforts on wage gains and related benefits. At no time have demands been advanced which were related directly to the war.

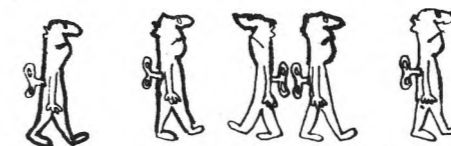
On the contrary, union spokesmen are generally at pains to make clear the fact that they have no intentions on hindering the war effort. The West Coast Longshoremen are

an outstanding example of a union determined to maintain a patriotic posture on the war in Vietnam. This union has a reputation of being one of the most progressive and militant unions in the country. Delegates to the I. L. W. U. conventions have even been known to pass resolutions condemning the war in Vietnam and other acts of aggression.

But when it comes to the vital issue of action to back up the pious resolutions the West Coast Longshoremen, like all the rest, are most conservative and patriotic. Bridges, president of the union, has made a public declaration that his union will take no action designed to impede the war of aggression in Vietnam. This declaration was made in a reply to students at Berkeley who had demanded that the Longshoremen halt just one or two ships, loading war material, as a gesture of international solidarity with the people of Vietnam and the anti-war movement in the United States.

The resolutions of solidarity have remained on paper, but the pledge not to impede the war was quickly put into effect. During a warehouse strike that took place shortly after the Bridge's announcement union leaders in the strike guaranteed that shipments of war material to Vietnam would not be held up.

The most recent event of this nature is the strike of more than



"The labor leaders."

ten thousand members of the International Association of Machinists employed at MacDonnell-Douglas aircraft, makers of Phantom Jet planes. The Phantom Jet is being used extensively to bomb the people of Vietnam as well as in Laos and Thailand. This plane is also being supplied to Israel for use against the Arab people.

But the members of I. A. M. appear to be unconcerned about the use to which their labour is being put. Their sole concern is to secure temporary and limited gains for themselves. The demands they advance can, and will, be met--at least in part--by the capitalists without damage or restriction to their plans for aggression.

Organized workers in the United States need to learn the lesson that industry which can be brought to a halt in a fight for wage gains (which are of a most temporary nature under capitalism) can also be brought to a halt in a most effective effort to end aggression. What is needed is for the workers to be aroused to the knowledge that this action would be in their own fundamental interests.

The expansion of aggression will bring with it increased repression and, in the first place, repression of the workers, destruction of their organizations and a drastic lowering of their standards of living. However, U.S. imperialism is in dire straits and opposition to its aggressive acts is on the increase. In addition to strikes for wage increases, workers must begin to pass over to strikes directed against imperialist aggression. This is an infinitely more important demand than any that can be advanced for wages.

## DOW AND I.G. FARBEN MERGE

Dow Chemical Company, which has gained world-wide notoriety as supplier of Napalm for use against Vietnamese peasants, has gone into partnership with the German chemical monopoly, I. G. Farben. For those whose memories may be short, and the ones too young to have known; I. G. Farben is the firm that developed Zyklon B poison gas and supplied it to the Nazis for use in concentration camps where millions were exterminated.

I. G. Farben Industries was supposedly dismantled after the war, but one of its major components, Badische Anilin and Sodo Fabrik, survived intact, and is today by far the largest chemi-

cal complex in West Germany. Chairman of Badische is one Carl Wurster, who also happens to have been a former chairman of I. G. Farben and the manager of the division responsible for running the slave-labour operated synthetic rubber plant located in Auschwitz. Another post held by Wurster was that of member of the administrative council of a wholesale distribution firm called Degesch, 42½% owned by Farben. Degesch handled sales of Zyklon B to the camp at Auschwitz.

Wurster's firm, Badische, is now in partnership with Dow for the purpose of promoting operations in the United States. The two firms operate a joint venture

in Freeport, Texas, called the Dow Badische Chemical Co. A curtain of secrecy is drawn over information on what products the firm manufactures at the Texas plant. However, based on accurate knowledge of the background of Dow and Farben-Badische, we experience no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that their joint venture is not designed as a charitable foundation based on humanitarian principles and the welfare of the people.



## MEANY'S LABOUR IMPERIALISM

### MEANY AND THE ICFTU

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, has presented the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), with an ultimatum in connection with an application for affiliation from the United Automobile Workers (UAW), an organization which recently disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO. Meany has notified the executive council of the ICFTU that any move to accept the UAW application will result in the AFL-CIO suspending its considerable financial contribution to the International. Meany's Yankee arrogance in the form and method of delivering the ultimatum left no doubt in anyone's mind as to whom he considers boss of the so-called "Free Trade Union Movement".

Of course Meany knows that severing connections with the ICFTU will do little to restrict his international connections. The Meany-Lovestone faction, now dominant in the AFL-CIO, have their own international machine, which is an

extension of the C. I. A., and complements the activities of the U. S. spy network in several score countries - particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

### MEANY ON INDONESIA

With the toll of the slaughtered in Indonesia now standing at more than a million, and fascist-militarism firmly in the saddle for the present, the Meany-Lovestone reactionaries in the AFL-CIO openly declare their acceptance of the Suharto-Nasution military dictatorship.

An article in Free Trade Union News (edited by Lovestone) hails the "democratic unity" of the "free" trade unions in Indonesia and urges the various union federations to submerge their differences to cooperate with the militarist regime in solving Indonesia's economic problems.

On current conditions the article says: "... it is encouraging to note that substantial progress has been made on the economic front... the

doors to foreign investment have been opened on a realistic basis... High praise indeed for a regime of mass murderers.

Going still further in the direction of putting the stamp of approval on the militarists, the Meany-Lovestone journal declares: "The army performed a signal service in saving the country... Friends of Indonesia hope that the army will show the wisdom to help solve the difficult economic problem, normalize the political situation, win the loyalty of the people and thus set Indonesia firmly on the path to a viable economy..."

Thus the Meany-Lovestone bureaucracy keep their record intact. They have supported every militarist clique that has seized power anywhere in the world, they have applauded their campaigns of mass slaughter in the name of "fighting communism" and they have condemned every effort of people to free themselves. Such is the record of the so-called "leaders" of organized labour in North America

# THE SOVIET UNION

## NUCLEAR THREAT ON CHINA

The Soviet Union has been reported to have threatened China with nuclear "retaliation" if the trouble on the Sino-Soviet border should develop into more serious warfare.

A Chinese-language broadcast from Moscow is quoted as declaring that "the whole world knows that the main weapons of the Soviet armed forces are their missiles with nuclear warheads of an unlimited destructive power."

Making such threats would not be out of character at all for the rulers of the Kremlin. That they would make such threats, however, does lay bare some glaring contradictions between the image of themselves they wish to present to the

world, and the ugly reality underlying that image. For here are the co-signers, along with the American imperialist ruling class, of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty--announcing their readiness to employ nuclear warheads against China. Now there remains no doubt as to why they would have preferred to remain the monopoly partners of American imperialism in the possession of atomic weapons!

And here are the prophets of "peaceful co-existence" rattling their nuclear sabers at the people of China. This really is what the so-called policy of "peaceful co-existence" amounts to: the un-

hindered freedom of the U. S. and the U. S. S. R. ruling classes to co-exist peacefully while they exploit, attack, invade, and bully the rest of the world.

Now, it is true that Mao Tse-tung is reported to have replied that China is ready to defend herself with nuclear weapons if the Brezhnev-Kosygin clique dares to launch such an attack. But then the Chinese comrades never have pretended that anything but a policy of militant defense can protect even the most peaceful nations against imperialism. The Moscow rulers are now proving that peaceful co-existence with revisionism is an equal impossibility.

## C.P. STAND ON SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE

It should never have happened! What with all the recent purges the management should have had the Vancouver branch office well under control. Moscow will certainly demand an explanation and a few more heads may roll.

The scene was the B. C. provincial convention of the Communist Party on the weekend of March 15-16. A resolutions committee of fourteen was set up. Installed as chairman was well-known local trade unionist, Jack Phillips, with instructions to bring in a resolution condemning the People's Republic of China for aggression in the dispute on the Sino-Soviet border.

The required resolution was duly moved and seconded in the committee; the chairman called the vote and, oh, what treachery is this we see: Count them up, count them down; count them from East

to West and from West to East, the tally still came out seven for, seven against: stalemate.

The chairman drew himself up, viewed the state of the battleground and addressed his shattered army: "I believe," said he, "we should not be too hasty to accept the word of the Soviet Union on this. I move we withdraw this resolution and submit no report on the question." And so it was.

To be stymied thus, on the sacred ground of their own well-prepared convention, was a resounding defeat for the Brezhnev-Kosygin office-boys. After they were sure that all voices of dissent had been weeded out they still find themselves unable to pass a top-priority resolution in their own convention. Morgan and the rest of the yes-sayers will no doubt make public statements slanted to give the impression that the members support

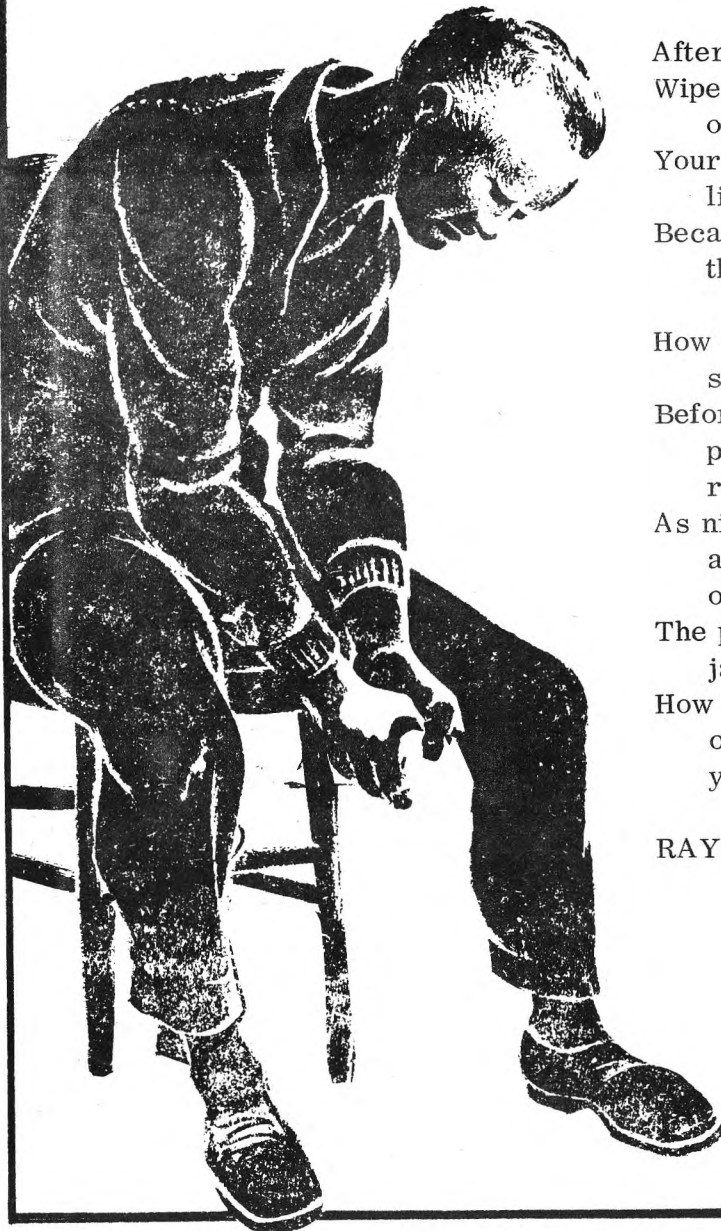
his anti-China stand. But the convention proceedings will show that he speaks without membership authority--indeed, against the convention decision to take no stand either way.

Such are the tribulations of a petty bureaucrat who is no longer loved by his constituents.



Confrontation on Chenpao Island.

# HUNGER



After you lay the quarter down and have a meal,  
Wipe your mouth with a paper napkin and walk  
out of the lunch-room,  
Your head higher, your body stronger, your heart  
lighter, because you have eaten,  
Because you have done again what people do when  
they feel hungry,

How long will you walk on air, how long will you  
smile at the world, this beloved plot of earth,  
Before you remember what a man with empty  
pockets remembers, fears, goes crazy  
remembering

As night comes, and the streets are dark and cold,  
and you are alone with the sound of your feet  
on the pavements,

The pain in your belly like a thousand needles  
jabbing,

How long will you panhandle like the blind man  
on the corner, how long will you take it before  
you steal, before you attack, before you kill?

RAYMOND SOUSTER (first published 1944).

Raymond Souster is a Canadian poet  
born in Toronto in 1921.