

# **Progressive Worker**

AUG. SEPT. 1968  
TEN CENTS



# **VIETNAM**



# **U.S. CLOSE TO DEFEAT**

# Progressive Worker



Published Monthly By  
PROGRESSIVE WORKERS MOVEMENT

VANCOUVER  
35 East Hastings Street, Vancouver 4, B.C.

TORONTO  
MAY 1st BRANCH  
P.O. Box 1151, Adelaide St. Postal Station  
Toronto 26, Ontario

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# SOLIDARITY WITH WHOM?

It is a basic principle of international law that, in time of war, military transport and personnel of any of the belligerents which strays into the territory of a neutral power, shall be interned for the duration of the war.

This policy was strictly adhered to by all neutral countries during world war two. A number of airmen of the allied forces—including Canadians—who had been stationed in the North of Ireland, spent several years as guests of the Irish Republic when they made the mistake of straying over the territory of that neutral nation. So long as they did not try to escape—and none did—they were not locked up and could move freely around Dublin.

There was a notable case of a member of the British forces who had been interned in Iceland and was successful in escaping. On receipt of a request from Iceland, British authorities ordered him to return to internment, where he spent the remaining years of war.

Our reasons for referring to these facts is prompted by reports of an events involving the U.S., the U.S.S.R. and the war in Vietnam.

According to these reports a plane en route from the United States to Vietnam by way of Japan, with 214 U.S. military personnel on board destined for service in Vietnam, strayed over an island in the Kurile group which is under Soviet control and was, quite properly, forced to land.

Up to this point the local Soviet forces on the island had acted quite correctly within the terms of international law, and were fortified in their action by the fact that the United States admitted violation of Soviet territory as a result of "an error in navigation."

A simple application of international law would have dictated that the U.S.S.R. hold the plane and personnel on board for the duration of the conflict in Vietnam. But the fact that the Soviet Union pretends sympathy with the Vietnamese would seem to be a more compelling reason for internment. An additional factor supporting the case for internment would be the undoubted reluctance of the men on board to serve in Vietnam. At least 90 per cent of them would have been happy to serve out the war in the Kurile islands.

The question arises: which side is the Soviet Union really on? They have passed many pious resolutions of support and even supplied some equipment (although of limited type and quality). But in practice the main weight of Soviet support is pointed in the direction of the United States and against the fundamental interests of Vietnam.

This is so in the case of the release of the plane and personnel which, incidentally, were released with unseemly haste. It is true in the way in which the Soviet Union has arranged things in Europe to make it possible for the U.S. to withdraw almost their entire trained personnel and deploy them in Vietnam. Even U.S. commanders in Europe complain about the way in which their forces are stripped of highly-trained technical troops. It is true in the way in which the Soviet ruling clique rushes into agreement with the U.S. imperialists on a number of fundamental things,

such as the nuclear blackmail treaty, which is directed toward making the U.S. aggressors appear in the light of angels of peace.

The release of this transport is one more firm indication of how the Soviet authorities talk support for Vietnam but give real aid to the U.S. aggressor. It also constitutes another demonstration of Soviet servility towards U.S. imperialism.

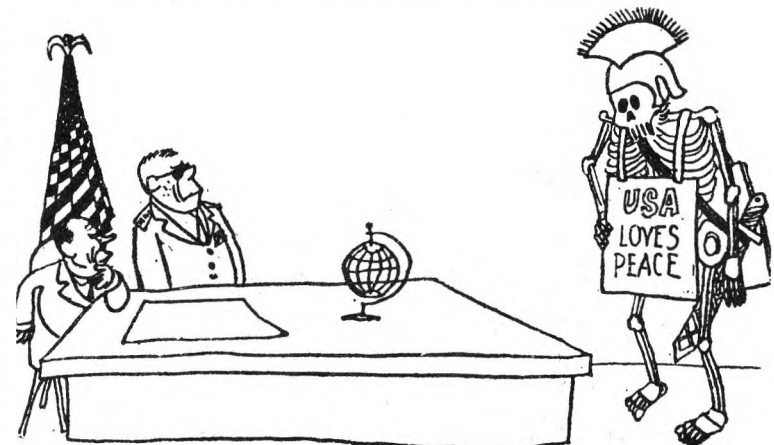
In the meantime, while the U.S., ably seconded by Kosygin and Brezhnev, talks peace and settlement, they step up their war of aggression against the people of Vietnam, both North and South. Following their announcement of "limited" bombing of the North, the number of missions flown were actually increased. According to official figures released by the Pentagon the number of bombing missions against the North in May were 35 per cent greater than the number flown in March. So much for the farce of "limited bombing."

In the South, the number of U.S. troops, which stood at 516,000 at the end of March had increased to 534,000 by June. There was also a corresponding increase in the number of puppet troops deployed in Vietnam, particularly from Thailand, South Korea and Australia. These actions speak a lot louder than all of Johnson's double-talk. They prove definitely that the U.S. aggressor has not the slightest intention of voluntarily abandoning their acts of war against the people.

The people of Vietnam are dealing out the vigorous blows that will finally force U.S. imperialism to quit the battlefield. The number of planes shot down in the North has now passed the 3,000 mark. Casualties being inflicted on U.S. and puppet troops in the South have become so heavy they are forced to publicly admit alarm over developments.

Under the hammer blows of the people's forces the aggressor has been compelled to abandon a number of strategic bases and even Saigon is under constant siege. The aggressor is reduced to such desperate straits he is forced to bomb, strafe and shell the very cities and towns he claims to be protecting. The initiative rests entirely and securely with the National Front for Liberation. The U.S. is on the defensive, confined to "strong-points" always under siege and unable to mount a single offensive. Victory for the people is now in sight.

**U.S. AGGRESSORS GET OUT OF VIETNAM!**



"Nobody believes me, Mr. Johnson."



## 3,000th U.S. plane downed in North Viet Nam MANY AIRMEN CAPTURED



President Ho Chi Minh on a visit to anti-aircraft batteries.



## HO CHI MINH CONGRATULATES ARMY AND PEOPLE OF VIETNAM FOR SHOOTING DOWN 3000TH YANKEE WARPLANE

*Text of the message of congratulations sent by President Ho Chi Minh to the army and people of North Vietnam on the occasion of the shooting down of the 3000th Yankee warplane.*

Hanoi, June 27, 1968

Beloved countrymen, combatants and cadres:

The 3000th warplane of the Yankee enemy has been shot down over North Vietnam precisely at a time when heroic South Vietnam is attacking the enemy impetuously and scoring great victories. Thus, both parts of the country, North and South, are fighting with maximum excellence.

The brave army and people of the North have not only shot down a great number of enemy warplanes but have also scored victories on the communication and transportation fronts and in the construction of the economy and maintenance of the daily life of the population.

For more than three years of struggle for national salvation against the Yankees, the socialist North has achieved ever-increasing stability and has always fulfilled, fully and wholeheartedly, its duties toward its South Vietnamese compatriots.

It is with great satisfaction that, in the name of the Central Committee of the Party and the Government, I congratulate the army and the people of North Vietnam for their emulation to produce and fight with excellence.

I also warmly congratulate the troops and the population of the Fourth Military Zone for winning the well-deserved title of first line of combat in the North by their heroic thwarting of every desperate maneuver of the Yankee enemy. My congratulations, in particular, to the army and the people of the province of Quang Binh, whose skillful fighting tactics brought down the 3000th warplane. I am sending the banner of honor to Unit X.

This is a feat that belongs to all our army and people in the northern part of our country.

The aggressors have suffered very serious defeats, but they are not yet resigned to halting their war crimes in the aggression against the South and the destruction of the North.

The entire population and all the combatants and cadres of the nation should not celebrate victory too soon. They must remain ever vigilant, close ranks even more, redouble their efforts in combat, produce even better, develop their strong points still further, correct their deficiencies and, with ever-increased determination, proceed to defeat the Yankee aggressors to the last man.

Forward! Victory will certainly be ours!

With greetings of affection and determination to win.

Ho Chi Minh

PUBLISHED: 6/29/68



# U.S. AGGRESSORS: GET OUT OF VIETNAM

# A MARITIME CRISIS

Canada stands third in the list of the world's trading nations. Canadian goods find their way into scores of countries around the globe. But Canada has long since scuttled her merchant marine fleet and is fully dependent on ships sailing under foreign flags to carry her goods—ships owned mainly by U.S. maritime interests. Now, with the merchant fleet well and truly sunk, we are well on the way to realization of the second stage in the program—the almost total elimination of the nation's shipbuilding industry. We are almost at the point where our remaining shipyards can handle construction and repairs for nothing larger than a fishing boat. Every few months brings new word of more shipyards closing down. Those yards still in operation are largely dependent on government contracts for construction and repair of naval vessels that are without a merchant fleet to protect and, in any case, are largely obsolete.

Of the six major yards in B.C. in operation at war's end four are now closed and the prospects of the remaining two — Burrard at Vancouver and its Victoria subsidiary, Yarrows — is bleak at best. Employment is already at a record low and conditions are expected to get worse at summer's end. The large corp of skilled and semi-skilled tradesmen built up during the war years has been almost completely dispersed. This is a direct violation of a government undertaking, publicly proclaimed, to maintain the shipyards as a major Canadian industry.

Attention at the moment is centered on St. Lawrence River shipyards in Quebec where the Canada Steamship Lines subsidiary, Davie Shipbuilding, announced the purchase of the G. T. Davie shipyard from Vickers Ltd. with intentions of closing the yard and merging the assets with Davie Shipbuilding. Some of the workers may be transferred to another Vickers yard at Marystown, Newfoundland, but most will be unemployed. Other Quebec yards are able to maintain a limited operation because of government contracts for naval vessels.

# APPEAL TO READERS

"Once started a journal must be run conscientiously and well. This is the responsibility of the readers as well as of the staff. It is very important for the readers to send suggestions and write brief letters and articles indicating what they like and what they dislike for this is the only way to make the journal a success." MAO TSE-TUNG Introducing "The Chinese Worker"

Dear Reader:

The P.W.M. is now nearing the end of its fourth year of publication. Periodically over the years we have made appeals for funds and also urged our readers to send in their suggestions and criticisms of the paper. The "Progressive Worker" is a National Periodical and is also the organizer of our movement. Consequently many hours of hard work are involved in the publish-

The Port Weller yard in Ontario expects to lay off 450 men by August which means a reduction in work force from 800 last fall to 100 following the August depletion. Other Ontario yards expect a continuation of operations at present level until year's end but make no prediction beyond that time. East Coast yards in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick see only a bleak future beyond the spring of 1969.

For a nation like Canada, with literally hundreds of ports and thousands of miles of coastline, our shipping and shipbuilding operations are in a sad state of despair — virtually on the point of extinction. The U.S. monopolists who dominate the economy have no interest in building a merchant fleet and maintaining a shipbuilding and ship repair industry. It is more profitable to operate under foreign flag registry. The Canadian government, subservient to U.S. economic interests, demonstrates a massive disinterest in the fate of the maritime industry.

The shipyard unions have made some efforts, by way of delegations and petitions, to arouse the interest of government leaders in the fate of the industry. These efforts have been remarkable only in their complete lack of success. It is obvious that these unions have not the power to move the government, which is the only force capable of tackling the problem. This is a matter which affects the economic and political independence of the nation and, accordingly, is of prime importance to the entire labour movement—the whole nation. The CLC must give over passing pious resolutions in support of the demands of the shipyard unions and head up a popular movement that will demand, and obtain, government action for the creation of an all-round metallurgical industry, including the building of a merchant fleet — a program that will re-establish the shipbuilding and ship repair industry. The many shipyard unions now in existence should take the first step in this direction by merging into a single national union whose united strength can put greater pressure on all concerned.

ing of this paper. Also as we are all workers, this must be done in our spare time.

The P.W.M. is not just a movement for the working class but also a movement of the working class, therefore we like to feel that this movement and Journal belongs to all workers.

We would like therefore to hear from Marxist-Leninists all over Canada and also other interested workers.

We would also at this time like to make an appeal for funds. Our paper costs money to put out and this must come from our pockets. Therefore if any readers would like to make a donation no matter how small, it would be appreciated.

Yours for Socialism,  
THE P.W.M.

# THE WESTERN PRESS ON CHINA

The press in the western world has lately been taking time out from reporting the tumult, turbulence and crisis sweeping across the whole of their own territory, to become widely speculative about events in the People's Republic of China and the Proletarian Cultural Revolution. The so-called journalists and foreign correspondents are having a field day commenting on speeches that no one else hears and on newspaper and magazine articles that no one else reads. Favourite source of western reports in recent months have been unidentified "travellers passing through Hong Kong," or the similarly unidentified "reliable authority" in Tokyo.

A method of "reporting" long favoured by western correspondents is to take up about 90 per cent of their story with material based on speculation, wild rumours and innuendo, and then wind up the end with a brief, and often unread, paragraph virtually denying everything they had already written up to that point.

One thing we have said before, and can reiterate now; revolution is not an afternoon tea party. The process of carrying out revolution presupposes the existence of a certain amount of chaos and turmoil. It is true that some people are sure to get hurt in the course of the struggle — revolutionaries as well as counter-revolutionaries.

What the bourgeois commentators of the capitalist nations want to put across is the idea that, since revolution is inevitably accompanied by chaos, the working people would be well advised to be satisfied with the status quo and not engage in revolution. The most important question, however, — and one which capitalist reporters dare not touch upon—is not the fact that revolution is accompanied by chaos but, rather, in the interests of which class forces is revolutionary chaos operating.

Every revolution has had its measure of chaos and violence. But this is not the chief characteristic of the Proletarian Cultural Revolution any more than it is the chief characteristic of any revolution. The chief characteristic of revolution is the seizure of state power by the rising class forces seeking to order their own destiny in their own way. But our so-called "reporters," who are opposed to revolution and the seizure of power by the working class, ignore entirely the objectives of the revolution, inflate the secondary factors involving chaos and exaggerate the difficulties and setbacks inevitably encountered in the course of revolutionary struggle. If there is not sufficient material available to keep the pen of counter-revolution well supplied these scribes of reaction will not hesitate to invent what they consider necessary to accomplish their purpose.

The first important fact to grasp about People's China is that everyone is guaranteed a sufficiency of the basic necessities of life — food, clothing and shelter. No one goes hungry in China. Let those who are inclined to cast a critical glance in the direction of China remember that ten per cent of the population of the "affluent" United States suffer from malnutrition, and about thirty per cent are living on a poverty diet.

It is not a tremendous accomplishment that China, which once saw millions die of hunger and in natural disasters such as floods, now knows not hunger, controls the floods and brings water to land previously

parched. All this achieved in less than 20 years since the victory of the revolution. The United States, with almost two centuries behind her since the revolutionary war in 1776, has witnessed on her own territory in that time an absolute and percentage increase in poverty and hunger, and this is not counting the violence and tragedy visited upon tens of millions in other lands through U.S. aggression and imperialist exploitation.

Soviet aid was withdrawn in 1960 with the objective in view of destroying China's industry. But China was not crushed. Since 1960 enormous advances have been recorded in the machine tool, electronic and chemical industries. The People's Republic has achieved the most advanced levels in science and industry. Thermonuclear weapons have been developed without Soviet aid, and this has been done without other areas suffering.

Scientists who have visited in China strongly affirm that no area of science is neglected and that scientific laboratories are moving closer to industry and have less of an ivory tower atmosphere. An important advance has been recorded in radio astronomy with the planned construction of a two-mile radio telescope. The synthetics and crystalline purification of insulin at the Shanghai Academy of Science, is an achievement unequalled anywhere else in the world. These advances are being made for the most part, with instruments and equipment manufactured in China.

China has made her gigantic strides forward against overwhelming odds. Deserted by the Soviet ruling group under Khrushchev, who tried to isolate her from the rest of the world, China was compelled to rely almost entirely on her own resources. The reactionary group which had seized power in the U.S.S.R. entered into an unholy alliance with U.S. imperialism — an alliance directed mainly against China — and Soviet armed forces were withdrawn from the European front and deployed along the Chinese border. The friendly relations, and the agreement on a two-nation monopoly of nuclear weapons, between the Soviets and U.S. imperialism disgustingly in evidence even as the slaughter continues in Vietnam and the threat of nuclear attack on China mounts.

When India was being urged to sign the "nuclear treaty" both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. proposed, as a measure of encouragement, that United Nations police action be taken against any nuclear aggressor. It was freely admitted by everyone that, since all nuclear powers but one are on the Security Council, and hold the power of veto, such action could be taken against only one nation — China. Thus the Soviet ruling clique entered into an effective alliance with the United States and other imperialist powers represented in the United Nations — an alliance directed specifically against the People's Republic of China.

China, therefore, was forced to direct a large part of her production into preparations for almost certain aggressive action from the bloc formed between the Khrushchevites and the western imperialists. It was also necessary to channel a large part of industrial and agricultural production into massive aid for Vietnam, as well as to many countries breaking out of the colonial system.

Simultaneously China mounted a struggle against lingering capitalist elements, and against capitalist

ideology, in the most profound revolution ever known a revolution to change the mind of man. This is the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution led by Mao Tse-tung and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

It is in the face of all these tremendous problems and obstacles that China is advancing. In view of the situation, both internal and external, the conquest of starvation, which was endemic in old China, would by itself have been an achievement of epic proportions — As the record shows, China has achieved infinitely more and has done the job without resorting to the creation

of a privileged minority which is the trend of affairs in the U.S.S.R. under the leadership of the Krushchevites.

We certainly expect difficulties to continue and the struggle to remain sharp in China for some time to come. Profound revolutions such as this are not carried forward without pain and sacrifice. There will be great victories, and undoubtedly some temporary setbacks but the working people of China will certainly emerge victorious. Let the western capitalist scribes get what enjoyment they can out of their distorted news dispatches — their time is short.

## EQUALITY?

In 1921 Canadian women, all excepting the women of Quebec were given the privilege of putting their mark on a ballot for the first time in federal elections. With this ritual they were told they had at last gained equality with men and should be forever grateful for this great gift from their superiors. Forty seven years have passed since "equal status" was given we are now being told about unfair labour practices in job advancement, unequal pay, legal restrictions, unfair tax exemptions, marriage rights, divorce laws etc. Although women did militantly struggle for the right to vote, they did not know they were only given this right in order to be treated as imbeciles forever after.

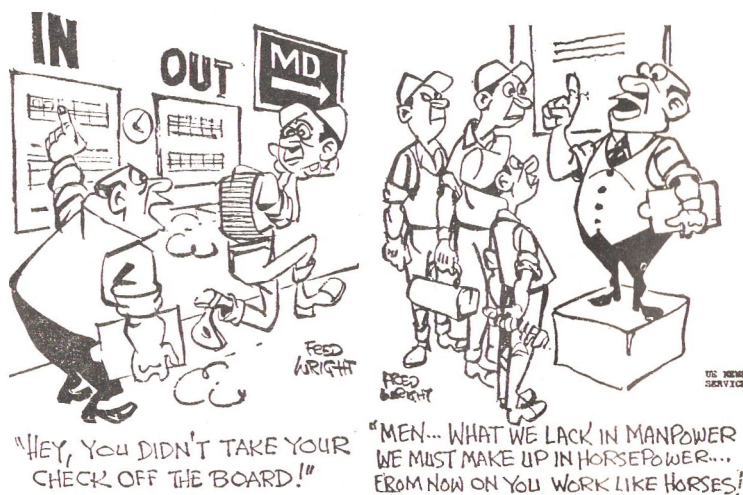
Women had been working for years before the franchise was ever mentioned. Many of them dying from overwork and exhaustion long before equality was ever thought about. During the first world war Canadian women were doing many and varied jobs to sustain the labour force while the male population were serving in the armed forces. They were not only employed in the clothing industries as some believe, but were hired on the C.P.R. and the Grand Trunk railways as machinics and oilers. They were employed in machine shops, in the munitions industry and all phases of food establishments. The wages were extremely low, the hours were long and they did not have "equality." With the right to vote given to them many years later they mistakenly believed they would be given some of the rights which were long overdue. Exactly the opposite happened, as was demonstrated when the second world war came along. They were hired by the hundreds and put to work wherever they were needed. Educational qualifications, degrees, or experience were criteria for employment. Their jobs were done ably and well in spite of the discriminatory labour practices against them.

The number of working women in Canada has steadily increased and in the past ten years has reached an all time high. Today they are the disciplined slaves of the profiteers. A vast number of these workers are on a part time basis. They are called to the job when they are needed and sent home at the convenience of the employer. Pension plans, medical plans and all benefit allotted to the full time worker are not given to her, she is at the mercy of the factory owner, the store, and the office employer. Only fifteen percent of all working women in this country belong to Trade Unions. The trade unions and workers organizations have done an extremely poor job with the organizing of working women. These groups are formed and operated by men who talk in strong terms about

equality and freedom in general, but in actual practice believe in non-freedom and discrimination. The male half of our population have known for half a century that women can do, and have done many of their jobs as capably as they can but have never been able to admit this simple fact. They have therefore kept them in their places in the trade union field as well as in all other areas of their lives.

The brutally biased laws of our society have been thrust upon women by men who believe in freedom for themselves, not for her. Humiliating marriage laws, insulting divorce laws, unwed mothers, inferior laws in the realm of jobs, education, and wages, have kept women slaves in the home and in the whole of our social environment. She has been portrayed as a weak, simple creature with no intelligence, whose welfare is the sole concern of her male superiors. She is being used as a gimmick to be exploited for profit, she has been made to appear cheap and vulgar. Because of this weak caricature of herself and the vast network of propaganda against her, she has been unable to free herself from the barriers that have been built to keep her in an inferior position.

Although the laws and culture of Capitalist society will never allow for real freedom or equality, the time has certainly come for the female half of our population to take some militant action to break down the bulwark of fear and their own unconcern, in the mess that surrounds them. Only when women insist and demand the right to partake in the making of laws which govern their own lives, will we ever be able to talk in terms of equality.



# canadian worker

## I.W.A. CONTRACT A SELL-OUT

"The facts show employers able to meet I.W.A. contract demands."

"It's time for a change—a bigger share of wealth for the employees."

"The money's there—we need it."

These three fine statements are taken from negotiation Bulletin no. 4, May, 1968 put out by Regional Office no. 1 of the International Woodworkers of America and were part of the tough talk that preceded a strike vote taken in May. Shortly after this bulletin was issued woodworkers showed that they backed a militant stand on the part of their leaders by giving them a 92 per cent strike vote. The demands they were making on the companies were headed by a 50 cent an hour pay increase, a 1 week across the board increase in vacations and double time for overtime.

Less than two months later negotiations are over and these same formerly tough talking leaders are asking the membership to accept a memorandum of agreement they signed with the companies. This memorandum contains 25 items 19 of which were either demands of the employers or are of little consequence to the workers. Many of the sections in the agreement that can be listed under the latter category were necessary for clarification of the contract but it should not be supposed that they were any real demand wrenched from the employer. Examples of some of these sections were female rates being deleted from the contract and the one in which the health and welfare plan's name was changed. Female rates were in effect eliminated in the 1966 contract and the change in contract wording comes after the fact. Likewise the change in the name of the health and welfare plan to "IWA—Forest Industry — Health and Welfare Plan" means very little to woodworkers.

Two important employer demands in the agreement were the one respecting observance of the agreement and sawmill job evaluation. The companies had demanded that the union put up a \$250,000 peace bond to guarantee against wildcat strikes." This absurd request was rejected by the union, but negotiators did make a concession on this issue when they agreed to the following.

"In the event of strike during the term of this Agreement the Union will instruct its members and officers who may be involved to cease such activity and comply with the terms of this agreement."

This clause is guaranteed to further alienate the membership from the union leaders because in any wildcat dispute it will up the boss and the leaders on one side against the workers on the other. When workers grievances go unresolved or disputes arise that are not dealt with in the contract sometimes the only effective way to deal with management is by means of a work stoppage. Union officials whether they want to or not are placed in the position of condemning

struggles by the membership for their just demands. Those union officials who are afraid of their membership's militancy will now be able to condemn wildcat activity using the excuse that they are forced to do so by the contract.

The problem of sawmill job evaluation has been a contentious issue between reactionary and progressive forces in the union for years.

The basic working of job evaluation is that when there is any change in the duties that a person must make in the performance of his job he is eligible to apply for a higher rate of pay. A team of evaluators representing the company and union come in and look at the job and then decide whether the rate of pay should go up, down or stay the same. There is presently a job evaluation plan in effect in plywood mills and through it many workers have obtained pay increases averaging about 4c an hour, when their job has changed.

There have been however, two drawbacks to this scheme and these have been the focal point of the dispute between reactionaries and progressives. The first is that wage revisions have taken a ridiculously long time to be put into effect. The period between the application for a wage increase and actually obtaining any more money is often around two years.

Secondly, the bureaucratic operation of the evaluation scheme lessens militancy on the job, because instead of the workers on the job and union business agents fighting the boss for a pay increase the workers fill out a form and hand the whole business over to the evaluators for some kind of action in the distant future. If sawmill job evaluation is anything like plywood job evaluation the workers in that section of the industry have suffered a defeat.

When the 6 sections of the proposed agreement that would materially benefit woodworkers are examined they indicate that union negotiators picked very few

The Canadian Worker is published monthly by The Progressive Workers' Movement. It is distributed as complementary copies, but also appears as a supplement to the magazine Progressive Worker.

The PWM is a revolutionary communist organization dedicated to serving the interests of the Canadian working class. It is the only political group that supports the slogan:

"Canadian Unions for Canadian Workers" For further information or subscriptions to Progressive Worker (\$1.00 per year), write to: PWM, 35 East Hastings St., Vancouver 4, B.C.

plumbs from the great wealth producing tree of the B.C. forest industry. Cook and bunkhouse employees obtained a 40 hour week, a section on guaranteed daily earnings for shingle sawyers and packers was added, employees working in camps who have 6 months seniority will have their fare paid to camp after a layoff or hospitalization, workers with 4 years, 15 to 20 years and 25 years seniority will get an extra weeks paid vacation, the health and welfare plan will pay \$75 a week in the case of accident or illness and there is an across the board wage increase of 18c from June 15, 1968 and another 18c in June 1969.

This is certainly not a very impressive list of gains when you consider that the profits after taxes of the seven leading lumber firms for 1965, 1966 and 1967 were \$455,617,000.

The conduct of the I.W.A. leaders while they negotiated this sell-out was as disgusting as the contract they signed. It seemed on numerous occasions that Jack Moore, I.W.A. President, forgot that he had received almost unanimous support from 26,000 members for a strong stand.

Instead of demanding a just settlement from John Billings, negotiator for the forest companies he went begging cap in hand. When Billings refused to attend further bargaining sessions to talk about holidays, Moore is reported to have pleaded with him on the phone and to have run after him in a hotel hallway. When Billings continued his refusal to talk Moore had the stupidity to appeal to the fascist Social Credit government to help him get negotiations going again. Needles to say woodworkers who were willing to fight the boss were disillusioned by this kind of behavior on the part of their so-called leader.

While Moore must bear the majority of criticism since he was the head of the negotiating committee, the rest of its members must certainly share some of the responsibility for the betrayal of their member's

interests. Since the memorandum has been signed some of them have denounced it as a poor settlement but their criticism is rather belated. On the key question of wage increases all the members of the committee voted to accept 36c over 2 years. If those who are now repudiating the agreement thought the contract was so bad why did they not take action during negotiations?

Rank and file members of the I.W.A. will certainly not be receptive in the future to requests for support from these people.

The membership of the I.W.A. is currently voting on acceptance or rejection of the proposed contract and from early indications it appears they will accept by about a 60 per cent majority. Jack Moore and those who support him need not feel smug if their recommendation to accept is upheld by the membership, because many of those who have voted for the new contract have done so **not** because they agree with it. In fact the majority of the membership thinks the settlement stinks. However, they feel that with the present leadership there is no point in continuing the fight any further at this time. Now is the time though for these people, as disillusioned as they are, to prepare for the next battle. The regional convention of the I.W.A. will be held in September and later in the fall elections for Regional officers will take place.

A beginning can be made by progressive elements at the convention and in the elections toward throwing out the present leadership who have shown that they and the American dominated organization they represent are not prepared to do anything for B.C. workers. The time is "NOW" to start building a strong Canadian union in the forest industry that Canadian woodworkers will be proud to belong to and through which they can attain their just demands.

**CANADIAN UNIONS FOR CANADIAN WORKERS!**

## LABOUR ROUND-UP

### CANADIAN COUNCIL

Forty delegates representing 9 unions met in Sudbury, Ontario, on the weekend of July 6 and 7 and formed the Council of Canadian Unions. Among the unions who attended the gathering were; the Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada and the Canadian Electrical Workers Union, both from British Columbia; Local 598 International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers (the Sudbury local which defied Steel and went independent), the Canadian Union of Operating Engineers and the Bricklayers and Masons Union, both of Toronto, Ontario, and the Nylon Workers Union based at Kingston, Ontario.

Two observers from the Quebec-based C.N.T.U. attended and the Council stated it will seek co-operation from the Quebec organization. It is fully expected that there will be an affirmative response from the strongly independent Confederation of National Trade Unions.

Notable absentees from the conference were such unions as the United Electrical Workers and United Fishermen and Allied Workers, both Communist Party led and both knocking impatiently on the door for admission into the C.L.C. and the U.S.-dominated union organizations. Also missing were the C.B.R.T., Postal

Workers, C.U.P.E. and several others which could contribute to making the path of the independent movement much smoother if they had the desire.

Roy Seranton of the Sudbury Local 598 was elected president of the Council and Kent Rowley, former international vice-president and Canadian director of the United Textile Workers of America was elected secretary. Harry Cooper of the Canadian Union of Operating Engineers was named vice-president. The executive board is to be composed of one representative to be elected by each of the participating unions.

In his address to the meeting Kent Rowley stated: "If Canada is to be an independent nation, an essential element is an independent Canadian labor movement."

It was announced that the first task of the officers will be the drawing up of a draft constitution for submission to a full meeting of the executive for discussion. The chief immediate aim of the Council will be to provide a means of exchanging information and assistance among the affiliated unions and to promote an independent Canadian trade union movement whose sole connection with U.S. and other national union bodies will be taken on the basis of international working class solidarity and mutual support, but neither being dom-

inated by, nor seeking to dominate others.

In a completely predictable reaction to the Sudbury meeting the president of the Canadian Labour Congress, Donald MacDonald, with all the authority conferred on him by his august and an honorary Doctor of Laws from St. Francis Xavier, declared the Council of Canadian Unions to be "Communist dominated" and made up of "break-away groups from legitimate trade unions." (All blessed with leaders who sport honorary degrees no doubt).

It is only a few weeks since MacDonald took his oath of office and he is already showing his contempt for the delegates who elected him. Those same delegates voted almost unanimously to remove the "Communist exclusion" clause from the C.L.C. constitution, but that does not stop MacDonald from going his own sweet way.

All the delegates at the Sudbury meeting were "legitimate representatives" of authentic groups of Canadian workers and came from industries and occupations to which they had been attached for all or most of their working lives. That is more than can be said of MacDonald's relationship to the C.L.C. Without a union to send him to Congress gatherings so he could be elected to the office he abuses, the president of the C.L.C. found it necessary to have himself adopted by a union in an industry and in a province with which he has never had any real connections. However, that is how bureaucrats are made.

The Council of Canadian Unions will no doubt prosper and grow strong without the endorsement and blessing of "Dr." MacDonald.

### BENEFITS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Canadian workers who take a dim view of unemployment may have the wrong slant on things, and might be well advised to consult the Globe and Mail, conservative organ of big business, in order to have their thinking adjusted. Dealing with unemployment in an editorial on July 3, a Globe and Mail reporter wrote: "... unemployment in May . . . stood at 4.9 per cent up from 4.6 per cent in April and higher than for many months. . ."

"This is a painful statistic which nevertheless had a healthful by product. The increase in unemployment has somewhat weakened labor's demands for large wage increases and strengthened management's resistance to granting them (economists have been urging that management take a tougher line in negotiations and accept strikes if necessary rather than concede wage increases. . .) The result has been that wage increases negotiated this year have been somewhat lower than last year. . ."

Those workers who consider unemployment a curse (especially those who have been jobless for some time) are obviously not giving due consideration to the benefits unemployment bestows on the poor downtrodden capitalists or they would not complain about their misfortune.

### PRODUCTIVITY

Spokesmen for industry have been urging Canadian workers to increase their productivity, claiming that we are running well behind the United States in this respect and also using it as an argument against claims for wage increases. However, a comparison of Canadian and U.S. labour statistics will show that the opposite is the case.

In the 15-year period from the beginning of 1953

to the end of 1967 productivity in non-agricultural enterprises increased 58.3 per cent in Canada and 45.1 per cent in the United States. Figures for manufacturing were; Canada 72.3 per cent; U.S. 51 per cent.

Productivity charts published in such journals as the Globe and Mail and Financial Posts, are not pro-



ductivity charts at all, they compare "value added" which is something quite different. "Value added" is the difference between sales and the cost of materials—it is a price spread, and reflects the company's ability to keep material costs down and the selling price up.

"Value added" comparisons hold an important disadvantage for Canada in relation to the U.S. As most of the main industries in Canada are U.S. owned much of the material and parts are imported from the parent companies at inflated prices and finished articles sold to them at low prices, practice which thoroughly distorts the "value added" picture.

Playing around with statistics in this fashion may provide some amusement for capitalist economists. But workers should be neither amused nor fooled by their antics.

### ON TWO HORSES

Live Wire, publication of the Canadian Electrical Workers Union (CEWU), includes in the latest issue an item that draws our attention to an interesting—in some respects amusing—detail. It points out that the CLC has gone on record as being opposed to the war in Vietnam, while the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, on the other hand, is officially pro-war to the extent that car bumper-stickers reading, "support the Vietnam war" are issued to union members.

The interesting point is that Ladyman is sworn to uphold the IBEW pro war policy, in his capacity as first vice-president of the union in Canada and is simultaneously sworn to uphold the anti-war policy of the CLC in his capacity of vice-president of that organization.

It is not unusual, when at the circus, to see a person ride two horses at the same time; but never one is headed north and the other headed south.

Ladyman is not alone in his amazing feat. There

are other dare-devil riders of two horses to keep him company. For example, Bill Mahoney, another member of the CLC executive council, is the "Canadian" front for the United States Steelworkers which is, together with the IBEW and others, a leading participant in the campaign to raise \$2 million from the trade unions to get pro-war Humphrey elected president of the United States.

#### ONTARIO TRUCKING

Union contracts in the Ontario trucking industry are due to expire at the end of September and company spokesmen are already showing signs of strong resistance to the demands the workers are expected to present when negotiations commence in August. The existing contract was arrived at two years ago, only after a long, bitter and sometimes bloody strike.

The Canadian Labour (Standards) Code has just gone into effect in the industry over the bitter protests of the operators, and after two years of stalling by them. The Code limits the hours a driver may work to 10 per day. But the trucking operators have by no means abandoned the struggle and are currently trying to circumvent provisions of the Code by pressing the right to have drivers go back on shift after only an 8-hour break.

If the employers maintain their present attitude another bitter strike would appear to be in prospect for the Ontario trucking industry.

#### STEEL PRODUCTION

Reports on the steel industry indicate the future of that sector of the economy to be far from rosy. Being a key area this would indicate trouble brewing in other places such as auto, appliances, construction and farm machinery.

The rate of capital investment in steel has slowed considerably. A temporary condition which is keeping the situation at its present state and preventing it from deteriorating even further, is the possibility of a strike in the steel industry in the United States sometime in August. Some consumers—particularly the auto industry—are ordering steel from Canada both for stockpiling and for insurance of supply during the period of possible strike action. Removal of the strike threat would mean an even further drop in Canadian steel production and another increase in unemployment already the highest level in years.

#### COPPER

A ten-month strike in copper in the United States forced importation of the metal in order to meet domestic demands, but even more to meet the demands of the Vietnam war. The lengthy strike resulted in the world price of copper skyrocketing. Since the U.S. dominates world copper the situation undoubtedly brought increased profits and proved very satisfactory to the copper moguls.

The strike was finally ended by government intervention prompted by the fact that importation of enormous quantities of copper, while highly profitable for the producers was adding to U.S. international trade deficit problems. The settlement was much less than satisfactory for the workers, especially when one considers the length of the strike and the sacrifices they made.

Conclusion of the strike has brought a sharp drop in the price of copper and it appears that some marginal operations, which either re-opened or took a new

lease on life, may close down. Soon after the strike ended Japan dropped two options held on copper properties in British Columbia. This event may have some connection with the ending of the strike.

#### ANTI-LABOUR WEAPON

About two years ago police began to use dogs, in addition to the traditional guns and clubs, against workers on picket lines and in demonstrations. Now a new weapon, in the form of U.S.-manufactured MACE has been added to the police arsenal and is no doubt slated for use against the workers. (It would be difficult to imagine it being used on an E.P. Taylor or a Senator Molson for locking out the workers.)

MACE is a paralyzing gas which was given a fast work-out in Vietnam—an interesting point which stresses the close connection between war against peoples abroad and war against the working people at home. Polices are defending purchase of MACE by claiming that it is "more humane" than guns or batons.

Spokesmen insist that the chemical has no serious or lasting effects on the victims against whom it is used. However, volunteers from among these spokesmen are conspicuous by their absence when suggestions are made that they offer themselves as guinea pigs to test the weapon.

38 Communities in Canada are now supplied with MACE and it has already been used once, in London, Ontario. The sharpening economic and political crisis, which will no doubt bring an increase in strikes and demonstrations, will bring MACE into greater use.

MACE—or its equivalent under other brand names—is manufactured by several private firms in the United States and is supplied to police and armed forces in many countries. The business is a very profitable one, especially with the war in Vietnam requiring vast amounts.

To date the labour movement has failed to react in the way in which distribution of MACE in Canada requires. There should be massive and continuous demonstrations until such time as importation or manufacture of this weapon in Canada is banned.

#### SEAWAY STRIKE

1250 St. Lawrence Seaway workers who struck on June 21 accepted terms of a new contract ending the strike July 14. Original demand of the union was for an 18 per cent wage increase with the Seaway Authority standing firm on an offer of 12 per cent in two years recommended by a conciliation board. In the last week of the strike the Authority indicated they would be prepared to go to 13 per cent.

Final settlement was based on 19 per cent in a three year contract. The increase in the first two years will 13 and one half per cent the additional 5 and one half per cent coming in the third year. Since the figure for the first two years is approximately what the Seaway Authority would have accepted as a basis of settlement several weeks before it must be considered rather doubtful if the end result can be considered a notable victory after a lengthy strike. It would appear that an extra year on the contract at 5 and one half per cent is more like a victory for the employer. That we could be right in our estimate is borne out by the fact that spokesmen for the government and the Seaway Authority hailed the settlement as "non-inflationary" (not likely to increase the purchasing power of the workers' and at least 2.5 per cent of the union members voted against acceptance.

Figured on a base rate of \$2.77 and an average of \$3.10 the increase for the first two years about equals the 35 to 36 cents in two years accepted by large bodies of workers in newsprint, forest products and metal.

#### CANADIAN UNION VICTORY

Two new representation votes have been won by the Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada and a challenge from the U.S. union has been turned back in a third plant.

The challenge from Pat O'Neal's U.S. owned union was at the Gold River plant at Tahsis, B.C., where the Canadian union had won jurisdiction and a contract about a year ago. The attempt by the U.S. union to retake the operation was rejected by a decisive majority



"I'M DOING ALL RIGHT ON MY PAY... BUT MY WIFE AND KIDS HAD TO GO ON PUBLIC RELIEF...!"

of the workers employed at the operation.

There had been some speculation that O'Neal had made the move at Gold River in an attempt to convince workers in other plants where his rule was being challenged that the Canadian union was losing strength and thus influence pending votes on representation. If this is so then the tactic proved to be a dismal failure because O'Neal has lost both votes which were scheduled at this time.

The Pioneer Envelope operation in Vancouver went to the Canadian union with an overwhelming majority, and now it is reported that the mill at Prince George, B.C., has equally forceful in rejecting the U.S. union and supporting the Canadian union.

The Prince George result is particularly significant since it ends a two-year running battle between the Canadian union on one side and the U.S. union and the Labour Relation Board on the other side and the company being a little more discreet but equally strong in support of O'Neal and the U.S. union. During the long period of the struggle a number of workers were discharged by the company at the request of the U.S. union, simply because they decided to join a Canadian union. These firings were upheld at a court hearing, a fact which rather brings into disrepute the clause in the B.C. Labour Act which declares a worker has a right to belong to the union of his choice.

The Canadian union won representation at Prince George by a 72 per cent majority which would seem to indicate that they are well on the way to eliminating

the U.S. union as a significant force in the Pulp and Paper industry in western Canada.

#### COMINCO

Agreement has been reached between the Steelworkers and the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company on terms of a contract covering approximately 5,000 workers employed mainly at Trail and Kimberley, B.C.

Also settled are negotiations in eastern newsprint mills where claims are being made by union officials of the winning of a guaranteed annual wage, but details are still vague and the claim not yet proven. Brewery workers in Ontario and Quebec are also on the verge of settlement.

#### UNSETTLED

Still in dispute are negotiations involving several thousand workers at the Lakehead cities of Port Arthur and Fort William, Ontario. These negotiations concern mainly Grain Elevator and Building Trades workers. Some progress in negotiations has been reported.

Sharpest conflict still remaining is in the Postal Department where some 25,000 postal workers and letter carriers are fighting to secure a first contract after winning the right to collective bargaining. Government representatives have adopted an extremely arrogant and autocratic attitude toward workers representatives and the bargaining process. Trudeau's "Just Society" does not seem to extend to serious bargaining with public employees.

Civic workers at Toronto, Ontario, and New Westminster, B.C. are still on strike at time of writing, with some signs that agreement might soon be reached.

Workers of All Countries, Unite!

# TRADE UNION PROGRAM

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

# REUTHER'S LABOUR IMPERIALISM

On a number of occasions over the past several years we have found it necessary to comment on Walter Reuther, his United Automobile Workers and the "wage parity" panacea. Our contention has always been that wage parity is not a demand and that it is entirely the affair of the workers of each nation to determine their own demands, based on local conditions, and to fight for these demands in their own way.

The strikes which took place in the Canadian auto industry this year proved conclusively the correctness of our position on this question. Even though Canadian workers easily won wage rates that were higher than corresponding rates in the U.S., in some cases, still a strike took place. Auto workers in Canada were determined not to accept the inhuman speed-up accepted by the locals in the U.S. and finally forced the companies to capitulate on this point after a lengthy strike. As we pointed out all along; workers in Canada have their own demands.

We have also had occasion to state that Reuther planned a huge auto workers union (misnamed "international") to cover the world and parallel U.S. ownership of the major share of world auto production. We stated that some preliminary conferences had been held in preparation for the day when a conference would be held to establish the giant "international" headed by Reuther. Events have once again followed the course we said they would: the "World Automobile Conference," held at Turin, Italy, in June, and chaired by Walter Reuther, took a giant stride along the road toward accepting the "Reuther Plan" of a world-wide auto union controlled from the United States.

The conference was attended by 135 delegates from 30 countries who listened while Reuther expressed his "deep concern" about the increasing international character of the industry, which has seen the giant auto corporations dominate and exploit the world markets. He charged that "profits know no patriotism and show little concern for auto workers and their families. Playing the role of super-militant, Reuther declared in a burst of fiery rhetoric:

"As the world struggle for automotive markets is intensified, auto workers can protect their living standards and their job security only as they build and strengthen their union organizations. They must also work out the practical machinery for international labour solidarity so that these giant supra-international corporations can be disciplined into the greater sense of social responsibility and give greater consideration to the needs of the workers."

At the urging of Reuther and his U.S. colleagues the conference outlined some common objectives:

(a) Parity in wages, vacations and length of work-week.

(b) Sharing of "specialized technical personnel" (a neat way of endorsing control by U.S. union bosses), a common terminal date for contracts of nation unions representing workers in a given international (?) corporation and the pooling of information.

A superficial reading of Reuther's speech, and the list of "international" demands, might well trap the unwary into believing that Reuther's proposals are at least boldly militant, if not downright revolutionary. For the benefit of those who might find themselves

temporarily confused by Walter's blarney, we propose to state a few points that merit serious consideration.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY?

Reuther talks quite glibly about "international labor solidarity" but, as we have had occasion to point out before, he means something quite different.

For example: "wage parity." Outside the United States Reuther addresses himself to this point in a manner designed to convey the impression that his union is prepared to make great sacrifices, in the interests of 'international labor solidarity,' to secure equality of wages in the automotive industry everywhere. But at home Walter has no need to dissimulate. There he can state quite bluntly—as he did at the UAW convention, and in his application to the Supreme Court in New York for an injunction against General Motors—that the demand for wage parity is a necessary measure to protect the jobs of workers in the United States. However, it would not be polite to present the issue in that light to workers in other countries, so it must be presented as an unselfish move to help them improve their living conditions.

There is one other point which Reuther invariably neglects to mention when addressing himself to non-U.S. workers, but one which came out clearly in the Canadian auto negotiations: Along with wage parity goes U.S. working practices. As Canadian workers definitely proved in their strike; no workers, anywhere in the world, are prepared to accept the inhuman speed-up methods of production imposed on United States workers. One example: The U.S. assembly line runs continuously throughout the entire shift. The "tag system" of relief is used whereby a man must hold his place in the line until someone is free to relieve him and then for no more than about 5 minutes. In Canada the assembly line shuts down 15 minutes in each half shift, (a total of 30 in addition to the lunch break). Reuther and his "specialized personnel" were quite agreeable to such conditions being imposed on Canadian workers, but the workers in Canada had a different idea—and made it stick. Workers who were supposedly "represented" at the Turin conference should take note that, in addition to wage parity, Reuther has these other "goodies" in store for them.

## "INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS"

The most important problem confronting workers in the auto industry, (and in other industries such as oil, chemical, rubber and electrical), and the one which Reuther carefully avoids coming to grips with, is that of ownership. The only approach which Reuther makes to this question is in vague references to "supra-international corporations," which is not substantially different from the "multi-national" term used by the men who actually control these giant corporations.

What Reuther and the financiers are both seeking to obscure behind these vague terms, which show such striking similarity, is the fact of U.S. ownership and control of the auto industry. This is U.S. imperialism in practice—aggression in the economic sphere, which generally precedes aggression in the military sphere; at the point when financial investments are threatened by any move to assert a nation's independence.

The delegates who represented the UAW at Turin are well aware of the fact the U.S. imperialism bestrides the narrow capitalist world like a colossus, and that U.S.

capitalists dominate by far the major part of world auto production—the term "supra-international corporation" was coined to fool the gullible. Behind the fancy words, and behind the wage parity proposal, lies the hidden demand (more clearly defined at home), that the U.S. capitalists produce less automobiles abroad and more in the United States and in this way guarantee more jobs to U.S. auto workers at the expense of workers in other countries.

The real essence of Reuther's proposals is for the workers to accept the fact of U.S. domination of the capitalist world; not to challenge that domination, but to live with it, and to bargain with the imperialist owners on their own ground, with the advantage—if any—going to the workers in imperialism's home base.

Delegates at the Turin conference from other countries—especially from those from Canada, England, Australia and Latin America, where U.S. investors dominate auto production almost to the total exclusion of all other—must be aware of the fact that Reuther's real objective, despite all his suave talk of "international solidarity," is for the creation of U.S.-dominated unions to negotiate with U.S.-dominated industry. Labour imperialists bargaining with economic imperialists. The outcome, so far as the workers are concerned, is entirely predictable — one hell of a beating.

More than 50 years of practical experience in Canada has shown that U.S. domination of the labour movement helps to reinforce the foreign domination of the nation's economy and compromises the independence of the country. The glowing promises contained in the great oratory of a Reuther soon turns to ashes and the promise of today becomes the betrayal of tomorrow. Canadian workers are learning this bitter lesson, to their sorrow. The auto industry in Canada is already well on the way to destruction. For some time now Canadian workers have been mounting a struggle to break the U.S. stranglehold on the Canadian labour movement. Each day more and more workers are being aroused to the realization that if labour is to play its rightful role in the fight for national independence and socialism, they must first free themselves from the domination of U.S. bureaucrats who are the lieutenants of U.S. imperialism. Workers everywhere should benefit from the Canadian experience.

## REAL SOLIDARITY

An international conference that represented the true interests of the auto workers would not settle for tacit acceptance of U.S. domination of the industry, nor would the delegates agree to give formal endorsement to such domination — what amounts, in fact, to recognition of the "RIGHTS" of U.S. imperialists — by entering into contract talks with the U.S. owners on the terms laid down by Reuther.

What is needed for for Canada, and others in a similar situation, is a struggle to put an end to U.S. domination of the industry — a demand for expropriation and nationalization to put an end to foreign control. Along with this demand for an end to foreign domination the workers should formulate demands based on their needs and on local conditions. To us, the "American way of life" just doesn't appear to be particularly suitable or attractive as a demand.

Once the workers seriously begin to advance the demand; "expropriate the expropriators," we will see just how far Reuther and his colleagues are prepared to go in demonstrating REAL international labour solidarity, by mobilizing the U.S. workers to support

their comrades abroad in the struggle against U.S. imperialism. We predict that Walter will be one of the first off the mark in defence of the "sanctity of U.S. investments." Anyone who entertains a contrary opinion should take a close look at Reuther's position on the U.S. aggression against the people of Vietnam.

## CANADIAN MOVE

A movement has already begun in Canada for the creation of an independent union run by Canadian auto workers. Initially the campaign is centred in Chrysler Local 444 at Windsor, Ontario, where a committee was formed and a slate nominated to contest the local elections.

The program of the committee, which was distributed to Chrysler workers, declared: "We support the establishing of a Canadian Auto Workers union which would co-operate with the International Union but would not be dominated by it . . . A Canadian Auto-workers Union would represent the interests of its Canadian membership. 98 years to get a Canadian flag. How long to get Canadian unions?"

The program also calls for democratic rank and file control and the election of all officers, from top to bottom, by referendum vote. The current practice in the U.A.W. is election of officers at delegate conventions which too easily lend themselves to bureaucratic machine control. Business agents and representatives are then appointed by officers elected in this manner. A proposal to introduce referendum votes for offices and dues increases was defeated in convention by the Reuther machine.

A leaflet distributed by the committee exposed the sell-out aspects of the recent agreement signed after a long strike. The future effects of this Reuther-made agreement are expected to be given worse than they are now proving to be.

A Windsor reader informs us that the showing in the local elections was, understandably, not too impressive in this initial effort and we gather that the fake radicals in the fast-dealing, Kashtan-led Communist Party gave their all for Reuther and the U.S.-union. One indication of how the land lies in the fact that the C.P. journal, Canadian Tribune, has maintained a total blackout on news of this important development. It is very likely that the attitude of the C.P. had a great deal to do with the miserable showing of the Party's candidates in the June federal election.

Our Windsor friend writes: "It is significant that an active movement in the direction of Canadian Independence is launched in the U.A.W. and the lead by the Chrysler workers should be followed in the near future by progressives in other locals.

"It will be interesting to follow and to participate in the development of this 'new' experience in the U.A.W. The growing trend toward Canadian Unionism has been given a worthwhile boost by the Chrysler workers in Windsor."

P.W. joins with our Windsor friend in welcoming this development and is happy to see the fight for an Independent Canadian Union being extended into the heart of the auto industry and the U.A.W. which is placing itself at the centre of a reactionary drive for the formation of U.S.-dominated world wide unions that will run on lines parallel to U.S.-imperialism and serve U.S. imperialist interests. We look forward to receiving news of new advances in Windsor and other areas of Southwestern Ontario.



# STATUS OF WOMEN

Editors Note: Reprinted from "Live Wire" Publication of The Canadian Electrical Workers Union.

Many women across the country have taken their problems and grievances to this commission, which was set up to investigate the dead-end situation 'man made' laws have brought about in many women's lives. None of our esteemed male-led B.C. unions saw fit to add their two cents worth to this study which has the aim of improving conditions generally. (With the notable exception of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union).

The overwhelming evidence is that women haven't got social equality or freedom and they see no reason why they should be denied it. Why should a woman not be able to work in any job she, as an individual, is capable of doing? If a woman assembler wants to make more money and has somehow succeeded in learning the skills of a machinist, she can do without an elite of cliquy men, whether employers or unionists, telling her she isn't allowed in the trade.

Today the money the average woman can earn is approximately half that which a man can make. Is this because women don't know how to do very much or can't work as well as men? Hardly. A nurse takes three years of intensive training and often ends up working for a wage not much more, and in some cases actually less, than that of an orderly, who has next to no training, probably doesn't work as hard, and has considerably less responsibility.

The average wage for women in manufacturing is less than \$2 an hour, as we know in some cases for quite skilled work. Yet the rate for an unskilled male laborer is from \$2.50 to \$3.00. Why?

We sometimes hear the old line about men having families to support. If this is the basis for the wage differentials how come no provision is made for women who are the sole supporters of their families? But in

any case the people who use this excuse seem to have some confusion in their minds between employers and charitable organizations. Surely the money that the employer pays out in wages is for the job done. When the employer lays off a worker he is not concerned then with how the man's wife and five children will live.

The blame for low wages women receive must be laid on complacent and selfish male union leaders (models of 17th Century enlightenment with their "male and female job classifications") who often won't organize or fight for women workers, whom they apparently look on as some kind of fairy-like creatures who don't need to eat very much, don't care if their ability is ever recognized or rewarded, and who always have some man who is making good money in the background ready to provide their every need.

In the electronic manufacturing industry the vast majority of employees in the Lower Mainland are women, yet almost all supervisory staff positions are held by men. Everyone knows there are women with years of service and training who would make excellent supervisors; better than some of the egocentric males with their phony excuses about "women's lack of administrative ability". Privilege can always be rationalized.

Of course women themselves must take some of the blame for their second-class status. They are often content to let things slide, play it safe, conform. They don't demand their rights and don't accept the responsibility for presenting their own case, and this is obviously a must, because if women don't fight for their own freedom they can hardly expect men to do it for them. Nevertheless, women standing up for justice will no doubt find they have many male allies, because men too are caught in the system and welcome changes which bring progress and true brotherhood.

Submitted by a woman worker

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# FRANCE--AND THE LESSONS FOR CANADA

The vast upsurge of workers, students and farmers in France has temporarily subsided into an overwhelming parliamentary victory for President Charles de Gaulle and Premier Pompidou. Once the struggle was turned from political demands of a revolutionary character, and guided into orthodox trade union channels with economic demands in the forefront, the Gaullist victory at the polls was easily predictable, claims to the contrary form certain quarters notwithstanding.

So long as workers, farmers and students held the streets and factories the initiative was in their hands and they could carry with them, however reluctantly, the main bloc of the middle class. But once the political demands were abandoned in favour of an economic agreement between workers and bosses—an agreement the terms of which were of immediate and direct interest to the workers alone—the initiative was lost.

Agreement on economic issues meant a settlement of the dispute within the framework of the capitalist system and, consequently, permitted the capitalists to present the appearance of economic and political stability with result that the middle class hastened to demonstrate their loyalty and support for the Gaullist regime. Parliamentary elections are the native grounds of the owners of industry, and at the polls the middle class became their allies, deserting the workers whom they see in retreat. The mass of young people from 15 years up, who constitute an extremely important segment of the fighting force on the streets and in the workshops, being voteless, are completely powerless at the polls. It is clear, therefore that the workers were bound to go to the polls entirely without allies and even split among themselves as a consequence of the frustration and pessimism arising from the sense of defeat.

The Trotskyist "Fourth International," whose "participation" in revolutionary struggle is strictly limited to the issuing of pontifical pronouncements from positions well to the rear, was once again caught ignoring the facts and predicated strong gains for the Communist Party of France in the parliamentary contest. The final outcome was a loss of more than 50 per cent of CP strength in the Chamber of Deputies. Only the traditional "Red" areas continued to elect CP candidates and the Party was reduced to but 33 Deputies—the worst showing since the end of the Nazi occupation of France.

### C.P. AND TROTKYISTS

In every crisis that has beset France since the end of the war the Party leadership, and the bureaucrats in the C.P.-led General Confederation of Labour, have extended themselves to the utmost in efforts to dull the revolutionary edge of the workers' struggle and turn it into channels where it will not endanger the state power of the capitalists.

We would not deny that the workers need to be and convinced of the fact that the C.P. is incapable of providing the necessary leadership in a period of crisis. But to limit ones political activities to accusing the CP leaders of betrayal after the event, constitutes no more than an exercise in futility. Yet that is what the Trotskyist Fourth International, and its French affiliates, have been doing for forty years.

It is common knowledge that the C.P. of France, like the C.P. of Italy, is one of the most conservative

parties in Western Europe. These parties have no intention of giving effective leadership in a revolutionary crisis and, in fact, no longer make any pretence of being revolutionary organizations. In view of this situation accusing the leaders of the French CP of failing to lead the workers to victory for revolutionary objectives is a meaningless gesture. One does not look to conservatives for revolutionary leadership.

France needs what every western capitalist nation is in need of—a revolutionary organization that possesses the determination, courage and capacity to lead the workers in revolutionary struggle a period of political and economic crisis. It is to this task that true Communists must address themselves. Heaping invectives on conservatives for failing to undertake the task is only a cover and justification for ones own inaction; after a time it akes on the appearance of beating a dead horse, and 40 years is a long time to beat a horse—especially a dead one. Just repeating that the CP leaders are guilty of treachery is no satisfactory explanation of why a genuine revolutionary movement has not yet formed, nor does it explain why the workers continue to follow them, even if they do so often under protest. This is not to deny the strong element of truth contained in the charge of betrayal.

The essential point of the matter is that the established CP's in the western world are, as we have said above, **not** revolutionary parties. However they do for the most part, champion the elementary demands the workers advance within the framework of the capitalist system, and for that reason workers generally will often accept from them leadership on union matters in periods of relative political tranquility. But not being revolutionaries the CP leaders do not advance from economic to political demands. Economic demands are pressed on the factory owners, while political struggle is confined to activity in the parliamentary area. Each is kept in a separate compartment thus confusing the real role of the state, and its relationship to the capitalist economy. The end result of this situation finds the CP not only unwilling but unable, to lead the workers in a period of revolutionary crisis: they automatically seek to restrict the workers to demands that are realizable within the framework of the system, and urge political action in the direction of securing a parliamentary majority in a bourgeois election, held at the discretion and, under the control of, the rulers of the capitalist state.

### REVOLUTIONARIES AND NON-REVOLUTIONARIES

Revolutionary situation do not last forever. In fact such situations are of quite short duration. The revolutionary forces either secure victory in a relatively short period of time, or are forced to retreat.

Most of the struggles of the working class are carried on during the periods when the situation is fairly stable and at such time workers concentrate on economic demands of a relatively modest nature. Revolutionaries are, of course, not unconcerned with these limited forms of struggle. They participate in all the struggles for the realization of the economic demands of the workers and try to provide leadership that will result in the largest possible demands of the workers and try to provide leadership that will result in the largest possible gains.

But there is an important point of principle that

distinguishes the revolutionary from the non-revolutionary. The non-revolutionary emphasizes the supremacy of economic demands and advises the workers to concentrate on them and restrict his political activity to parliamentary elections.

The revolutionary, on the other hand, emphasizes the need for political struggle even while engaging in the fight for economic gains. The revolutionary teaches the workers that without political power, their economic gains are certain to be but temporary victories and they will have to fight the same battle over and over again. The revolutionary underlines the important principle that the workers must prepare themselves to take advantage of a political and economic crisis in order to advance to the seizure of state power and not limit themselves to the elementary trade union demands that are characteristic of periods of stability. When the crisis does develop the revolutionary points the way to the seizure of state power.

The CP of France does not subscribe to this point of view. They insist on the supremacy of economic demands and contractual relations with the employers to regulate relations between worker and factory owner. The state, in their view, acts as arbiter between the contending parties. It was to be expected, therefore, that the CP leaders would act as they did in the days of crisis and urge the striking workers to be content with modest gains in the shops and not attempt a seizure of power.

The Trotskyists, whose main distinction has been the way in which they have berated the CP leaders for the past 40 years, differ from these leaders only in the way they dress their reactionary program up in leftist phraseology. During the crisis in May they, like the CP, advanced economic demands and left the important question of state power out of their reckoning. According to a report in Intercontinental Press, official organ of the Fourth International, the French Trotskyists, at the height of the crisis in May, issued an appeal to the workers in which they formulated the following demands.

"Full payment for all the days spent on strike."

"A minimum wage scale of 1,000 francs a month and a sliding scale of wages."

"Immediate reduction of the work week to 40 hours."

"A real lowering of the age of retirement."

"Recognition of workers, trade union and political democracy at the plant level."

"Dissolution of the repressive forces of the bourgeois state."

In spite of all their loud talk they raise not one political demand with real meaning. The last two demands are realizable only when the workers control the state. For all of its superficial militancy this list does not differ in any essential degree from that advanced by the CP leaders whom the Trotskyists denounce as traitors. When the issue is state power upping demands a nickel an hour does not constitute proof of revolutionary spirit.

Following up this reformist nonsense in a revolutionary situation the Fourth International itself comes on the scene with a grandstand announcement of what they call "a transitional program that corresponds to the essential needs of the masses." This "program" reads as follows:

"... the sliding scale of wages; workers control over production; opening of the bosses bookkeeping system; workers control over hiring and firing; the

outlawing of banking secrets; publication of how all the big companies calculate net costs and profit margins; registration of the holding of the landlords; the democratic elaboration of a plan for the economic development of socialist France by a Congress of Workers called for the purpose; completely free medical care, drugs, urban transportation, education and school supplies; wages for all high-school and university students beginning at the age of sixteen; administration of the universities by the entire university community; nationalization of all the big companies, private banks and all credit institutions; elimination of all the representatives of big capital in the administrative boards of the nationalized enterprises; recasting of the government budget by eliminating the nuclear arms program and drastically reducing military expenses while simultaneously sharply increasing expenditures for cultural and social equipment.

Now this is certainly a "revolutionary-sounding" program. But all of it—even to the calling of a workers congress to plan socialism—are demands on a capitalist government. Missing from it entirely is the question of workers control of the state—and this is no accidental omission. Following the conclusion of this declaration, almost as an afterthought comes mention of a government in the following words;

"These planks culminate in the demand for a workers' government."

Not only is the workers government an afterthought, it is just another point in the list of demands presented to a bourgeois government. For these Trotskyist "revolutionaries," state power is but a minor demand. If all the demands of the workers can be achieved without them holding state power it is extremely unlikely they would be interested in the question at all.

It would be difficult for one to believe that the Trotskyists are at all serious about even the most elementary demands of the workers.

#### DE GAULLE VICTORY

The Gaullist coalition has just won the biggest parliamentary victory in the history of the French Republic. It is a victory won largely by default. The left, represented by the C.P. and the Democratic Federation of the Left, was already negotiating terms of surrender with Pompidou, and left the field of battle to the Gaullists.

But in spite of his overwhelming victory de Gaulle is in serious trouble. The economic and social conditions that led to the explosion in May were the result of 10 years of Gaullist rule. French wages and working conditions were considered among the worst in western Europe. Housing, especially in Paris, was absolutely deplorable. Unemployment was soaring, farmers were in a price squeeze and living standards of the great mass of the people were declining.

Over a long period there had been an intensive drive to increase productivity, a policy which meant long hours and speed-up for the workers. With the advantage of intense exploitation de Gaulle was enabled to complete successfully with the U.S. and Britain on the world market and keep the national bourgeoisie and the middle class happy at home.

The May upsurge has considerably weakened de Gaulle's position and, despite the appearance of an overwhelming victory at the polls, has begun to seriously undermine his strength at home. The looked for rise of 5 per cent in gross national product this year will not materialize and this will be further compounded by

the LOSS of about \$2 billion in production as a result of the general strike. In addition, the Gaullists were forced to make some concessions to the workers and farmers in order to achieve a temporary stability in the political situation.

Once the situation is stabilized and the Gaullists feel equal to the task there will be a counter-attack launched against the working people in an effort to recover, with interest, what the ruling class has temporarily lost. The middle class and intellectuals — and even some of the less powerful sections of the national capitalists — will not escape the consequences of this counter-attack. De Gaulle's union with the fascist element, and the release from jail of the fascist generals who had once tried a coup d'état, is a clear signal as to the path de Gaulle intends to take to settle accounts with the workers. More and more de Gaulle will have to depend on the most reactionary sections of the army and the most militant fascist groups. The trip to Germany at the peak of the crisis was undoubtedly for the purpose of alerting the reactionary officer corp for action against the people. De Gaulle's essentially reactionary position, hitherto somewhat obscured, is now bound to be thoroughly exposed for all to see.

We can be certain that de Gaulle will not long go his way unchallenged, particularly since the deepening crisis of capitalism in France and on a world scale is sure to intensify the political and economic problems confronting him. While the struggle of the French workers, farmers and students is temporarily halted, it is by no means abandoned. The working people of France have revolutionary traditions unequalled anywhere in western Europe and the great majority showed the determination and courage of which they were capable during the years of Nazi occupation. The May upsurge clearly demonstrated that the spirit of freedom, independence and revolution is by no means dead in France. We can look to the future with confidence in the ability of the French people to challenge and defeat fascist reaction.

#### LESSON FOR CANADA

We have written here of the French experience primarily because of the lessons for Canada contained in that experience.

The deepening crisis of the world capitalist system is sure to affect us as much as it affects France. Already there are clear signs of the economic crisis on the way. These can be seen in the sharp drop in capital expansion and in the sharply mounting figures in unemployment. Dependent as we are on U.S. capital

#### MIDDLE EAST

Having moved the borders of Israel to the banks of the Jordan River and the Suez Canal for the purpose, as they claimed, of "self defence" the Israeli ruling class are hastening to complete the task of expelling the Arabs and settling Israeli soldiers and their families on the territories seized from the United Arab Republic and Jordan. The Israeli government have made it quite clear that they consider these lands to be now an integral part of Israel.

With their border now extended to Suez and the Jordan, Israeli deems it necessary to take steps to "defend" the new boundaries of the nation. For their purpose of so-called "defence" the armed forces of



—TING (London Free Press)

#### IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

we will be engulfed by the political and economic crisis now sweeping that country.

Canada suffers from the same misleadership of the working class as was prevalent in France. We have so-called "labour groups" that correspond closely to those that detoured the struggle of the French working class. Canadian workers, therefore, must soon learn the lessons of France and prepare now for the eventual day of crisis by developing a truly revolutionary party capable of coping with the situation and providing the necessary leadership. That is the chief lesson Canada must learn from the French experience.

Israel are launching new attacks against Arab territory with a view to acquiring more Arab land in the sacred cause of "self defence." This is imperialist aggression pure and simply.

In attempt to justify their expanding aggression the Israeli militants claim "attacks" have been initiated by the Arabs. But the area which they claim to be under attack is Arab territory and the Israelis are guilty of aggression by occupying it. The Arabs—if, indeed, they are attacking—are justified in taking any necessary steps to liberate their land from alien occupation. No doubt the Arab struggle will continue until liberation is achieved.

# ELECTION AFTERMATH

The recent general election witnessed a lot of oratory, style and promises but solved none of the fundamental problems facing the people of Canada. If it proved anything at all, it is that we had little to say in the past about decisions that affect our daily lives and that this is to continue during the coming period.

Sometime ago Engles said election results are a gauge whereby the political consciousness of the voters can be viewed. With this in mind it is readily evident that the Canadian electorate are at present very politically naive. The main cause for this lies largely on the shoulders of those in the past who have been responsible for leadership or the rather lack of it in leading and educating the masses toward a socialist society. This plus the rather "stable" period since World War II are the two main reasons for the state of affairs today.

Another notable conclusion is the fact that the most reactionary political party obtained the majority that they very much wanted. For too many years the Liberal Party has facilitated and represented the influx of American capital and interests into this country. As the lions share of our national resources passed into the U.S. hands, so did our sovereignty and the Canadian quislings who benefitted from this sell-out backed, the Liberals. Trudeau for all his "charm" won't change this fact. He was smart enough however, not to promise anything too definite because he knows more than anyone that major decisions are made outside of our borders. Considering the looming crisis that's approaching his "comfortable majority" may not be too comfortable especially if he had to come through with a lot of pre-election promises. Play it safe and ride out the storm seems to be the way the play was called.

The Conservatives were a sorry sight indeed. Having represented British capital in this country for so long they folded when the realization came that Britain is no longer in a position of financial stature. Their attempt to get on the U.S. payroll fizzled when the U.S. promoters decided to stick with the same trusted Liberal team.

The "independence" position of the N.D.P. looked rather ridiculous in view of their support for American trade unions controlling Canadian workers. Many leading lights of the N.D.P. are the same bureaucrats who are representatives of the U.S. trade union movement who use every trick in the book to sabotage the struggle for Canadian Unions! You can't be only partly independent. This fact alone probably lost more votes for the NDP than anything else not to mention that the Liberals "stole" their program.

The antics of the Communist Party were if anything comical. They called for a "democratic majority of progressives forces" made up of NDP and Communists and yet helped defeat Tom Barnett of the NDP in Comox-Alberni by depriving him of a score of much needed votes. We are not trying to give the Communist Party any useful advice, we believe they are too far gone to act on anything logical in a Marxist-Leninist revolutionary form, but if they are to continue to be an electoral party, they had better learn the rules of the rules of the game. They should learn not to openly advocate one thing and turn about face and do another as in the case of the Comox-Alberni riding where the NDP has held that seat in four previous elections. Wil-

liam Kashtan, national leader of the C.P. polled less than 200 votes in a substantially working class riding. We realize a revolutionary party isn't about to win any landslide at the polls at present. But, when the C.P. abandons all pretexts of being a revolutionary party in favour of an electoral programme and its national leader receives a handful of votes they miscalculated



"We must have foreign investment."

to say the least and are no longer a leading or even an effective force in Canada.

To coincide with the above mentioned, it is plain to see that as the looming crisis arises the working class will at a time, take things into its own hands in order to bring about a truly just society free of bureaucratic capitalism and form a socialist society with a revolutionary party at its helm.

## AUGUST-SEPTEMBER ISSUE

This issue of Progressive Worker will be completed and ready for distribution before the postal strike is ended. When the strike will be ended is an unknown factor at time of writing. However, it is obvious that the current issue will not be delivered to subscribers until the next issue is about due. We have decided, therefore, that this will be scheduled as a single issue for August-September, with the next being dated for October.

# C.E.W.U. ON THE MOVE

Recent developments in the Canadian Electrical Workers Union are worth making some mention about.

The initial growth of the C.E.W.U. after the sell-out by I.B.E.W. Union officials and company representatives, and since that time the C.E.W.U. has steadily grown.

First we had the organizing of workers at Phillips Cables and as a result the best contract ever was signed. The C.E.W.U. organizers went up to the Crow's Nest area at Sentinel, Alberta and signed up 106 of 108 employees at the Phillips plant there.. Wages at this plant range from \$1.25 to around \$2.00 an hour, under an I.B.E.W. 3-year sweetheart agreement.

Shortly after that the organizers went up to Edmonton and organized a couple of hundred electricians.

Contact has been made in Calgary and Saskatchewan other locals may soon be chartered. The C.E.W.U. also has many contacts across the country and with time and more money will be able to organize to a greater extent.

Some examples of I.B.E.W. settlements: (taken from the "Live Wire," C.E.W.U. paper)  
1963. . . a 2 and a half year agreement with Lenkurt Electric . . . average increase (incl. skilled sheet metal workers and electronics technicians) 6 cents and 3 cents . . . B.C. Transformer—2 years 8 cents and 8 cents  
1965 . . . Phillips Cables (the I.B.E.W.)—3 years at 16 cents each year.

1966 . . . Lenkurt Electric 6 per cent a year for 3 years.

This is an example of how (so-called) international unions with all their millions serve the interests of the Canadian working class.

Phillips Cables under the C.E.W.U.—2 years agreement reached one month after expiry of old agreement. —first year increase from 8 to 14 per cent (20 to 40) —second year 20 cents across the board for everyone.

Difference is plain to see between an American union and a Canadian union. A further example to show how an American union with millions doesn't do a job for Canadian workers.

"I.W.A. —1968, 36 cents over 2 years."

The reason why workers should join Canadian unions is not strictly for economic reasons, this should be stressed in each worker's mind. The main reason from a long-term point of view is once the Trade Union Movement in Canada is freed from the chains of U.S. domination the nation itself can begin to also be free. Then and only then will the Canadian people begin to reap the fruits of the labour and material from their own country.

The prospects for the future for the C.E.W.U. and the Canadian Trade Union Movement are indeed bright, but, we must remain vigilant and fear no sacrifice for the road ahead is not an easy one.

Trade Unionist.

# WORLD SCENE

## GIGANTISM

A recent article in Report On Business lists 108 U.S. Companies that recorded sales of \$1 billion or more last year. There were 5 concerns dropped from the previous year, but added were 16 newcomers for a net gain of eleven. General Motors sales topped \$20 billion, with Standard Oil and American Telephone close together in second and third place, having sales of \$14 billion and \$13 billion respectively. Virtually all the companies on the list—including the three top firms—have international connections, including multi-million dollar investments in Canada.

Profits on sales ran as high as 15.7 per cent — the figure reached by American Telephone. In some cases the percentage of profits on sales was relatively small, but this does not convey a proper picture of the profit situation. The true profit situation — profit on capital investment — is not revealed, but such profits are obviously enormous. Even when some information is revealed the picture comes out distorted due to manipulation and splitting of shares, an operation designed to make capital investment appear many times greater than it actually is and so making the rate of profit appear smaller than it is.

The emphasis on size in this report creates an illusion of great growth which is not really the case. The favoured path to bigness has been through mergers, acquisitions and consolidations which simply means that some surviving enterprises establish sales records at the expense of the disappearance of others. The increase in sales of individual companies, there-

fore, does not indicate a boom condition or the existence of more jobs for workers. In fact, with consolidation comes expanded sales with decreasing employment.

## FRENCH RESERVES

In the wake of the May-June crisis French gold and foreign currency reserves show a marked decline. By July 4 the drain on reserves stood at \$1.72 billion (U.S.) and pressure on the Franc was still being maintained by speculators.

International capitalists have rallied to support the franc despite conflict with the de Gaulle regime—defence of the system takes precedence over sectional differences. Foreign banks have committed \$1.3 billion to support the franc and Common Market partners have acceded to a French request for permission to institute a temporary measure to subsidize exports.

Other measures taken include; import quotas, exchange controls, an increase in interest rates and a tax increase expected to raise an additional \$500 million. Most of these measures will hit hard at the living standards of workers, farmers and middle class elements. The end result will be a considerable worsening of the conditions of workers and farmers instead of the promised improvement.

The firing of Pompidou and his replacement by de Murville is dramatic proof of the crisis that is rending French society and a portent of further militant, possibly revolutionary action in the near future.

News of the extreme brutality directed against

workers and students by the special police force, (which is organized on military lines and infused with a fascist ideology), is now being reported in some details in the English press and there are reports of at least two pamphlets published in France which elaborates on evidence of police brutality.

#### GLOOM IN BRITAIN

Devaluation of the pound sterling was hailed as the measure that would surely and quickly save the British economy from destruction. The intent of the devaluation move was to put the burden of the crisis on the shoulders of the working people while maintaining profits at record levels. Success depended on the solution being willingly accepted by the workers and Britains "Labour" government were confident they could secure acceptance.

However, British workers, already suffering from depressed living conditions, were not at all partial to a further deterioration of living standards. Consequently, strikes and slowdowns have bedevilled the English economy ever since devaluation was instituted. There has been almost constant guerilla warfare on the economic front which was not relieved even by the short-lived comic opera "save Britain" movement, which saw its originators among the first victims of economic recession following devaluation.

Demands for wage increases are being vigorously pushed by workers in spite of leadership betrayal and the Wilson government has suffered humiliating defeat in every parliamentary by-election and a desestating repudiation in local municipal voting.

Economists are pointing to the fact that stagnation in the British economy has had a non-stop run since the fall of 1964 and there is a continuing disastrous decline in capital investment. Four years of uninterrupted squeeze and freeze have only produced a massive increase in external indebtedness together with a serious erosion of the nation's external assets, while the basic position is no stronger now than it was at the start.

Another devaluation of the pound would almost certainly precipitate a world economic crisis with proportions as devastating as that of the thirties. Western bankers are desperately trying to keep a floor under the pound, the latest move being a \$2 billion support arrangement. But even with this massive aid the pound is hovering on the brink of disaster and now with the frame requiring support impossible pressures are being put on the world banking system. It is anybody's guess how long the international bankers will be able to keep juggling things before the whole flimsy house of cards comes tumbling down. Further serious defeats of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam could well be the fuse that triggers the explosion.

#### INDONESIA

The fascist regime in Indonesia, already having about one million murders to its credit, is intensifying a drive against the mounting resistance of the people. There are daily reports of more executions and mass arrests, including the imprisonment of army and police personnel. The state administration is now made up almost entirely of former collaborators with the Dutch imperialists who are now collaborating with the Yankee traders and opening up the country to U.S. imperialist exploitation.

U.S. investors, overjoyed at the opportunity presented them to reap enormous profits from the super

exploitation of the people of Indonesia, are hailing the government of fascist butchers as the "most stable government in Southeast Asia."

The people's forces, however, are in the process of recovering from the serious blows inflicted on them by this government of traitors, and guerrilla activity is on the increase. Fairly extensive areas of Indonesian territory are already controlled by the armed detachments of the people and there is every reason to look for some important advances in the near future.

#### EASTERN EUROPE

Leading figures in the USSR have long been boasting of the "unity" of the Soviet camp and of the support they claim to receive on all questions from the majority of the so-called "Communist Parties" of the world. But with the turn toward capitalist modes of production the inevitable fissures and conflicts that arise between all capitalist nations are now developing among countries of the East European bloc. Each nation is seeking its own individual national interest and the vaunted "socialist solidarity" of the area is most conspicuous by its absence. The main force that sustains the last threadbare remnants of "solidarity" is a negative one—fear of a resurgence of Nazi-ism in Western Europe. This is particularly true in the case of Poland and of East Germany, who stand most in fear of a break in the "unity of the region."

Czechoslovakia, among the most highly industrialized of the nations in the Soviet bloc, is anxious to take full advantage of the skills and the industries developed over the years. Trade with the west—particularly with the United States—, plus joint enterprises, is the way in which the Czechoslovak ruling group see as the best and most profitable way in which to pursue their objective.

But the group in the USSR strive to maintain their dominant position and become nervous when a nation in the bloc begins to strike out independently with a view toward securing the maximum profit for themselves. This the Soviet ruling clique considers dangerous and a threat to their political, economic and military interests. Any pacts of a political, economic or military nature to be made with the west—and there are lots of the—the USSR group insists shall be made by them alone and on their initiative.

The fear that East Germany and Poland entertain over the reactionary resurgence in West Germany is stronger than their desire for a greater measure of national independence. They feel the urgent need of Soviet support in the possible event of hostilities in Europe and, accordingly, opposes changes that threaten to undermine the already badly eroded "unity" of the bloc. Hence East German and Polish animosity toward Czechoslovakia which, it seems to them, is "rocking the boat" a little more than necessary.

A Canadian delegation led by Tim Buck is now in Roumania to "hold discussions... on matters of mutual concern such as strengthening the unity of the world communist movement." The trip is undoubtedly made at the behest—and the expense—of Kosygin, Brezhnev and company and undertaken to try to do their bit in bringing recalcitrant satellites into line. But having chosen to take the capitalist road of development these nations are bound to suffer from the same contradictions and conflicts that have always flowed from competition between capitalist countries. The relations are capitalist and imperialist relations and have nothing in common with socialist unity.

#### SPAIN

Defying the long-entrenched fascist government of General Franco of Spanish workers been conducting strikes and demonstrations in defence of their living standards and the basic right to organize in trade unions. Dock workers in Barcelona, Spains largest port, were on strike during July, and persisting in struggle despite police repression.

#### PORTUGAL

In Portugal, noted for its police repression and murders, workers were on strike for improvements in wages and working conditions. Some concessions were being forced from the reactionary authorities.

#### U.S.A.

Street battles were fought between police and demonstrators during June and July in Berkley, California. The fights arose out of demonstrations in support of French students and workers and in protest against the war in Vietnam. The demonstrators were militant but peaceful until attacked by police.

The Black struggle in the United States continues unabated in many areas, in many forms and with varying degrees of militancy. A significant development, although as yet weak and beset with many difficulties, is the initial efforts to unite Black Americans, Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans and North American Indians in common struggle. All these groups suffer from super exploitation and extreme repression. It is among these groups that the majority of some 15 million U.S. residents suffering from malnutrition are to be found, Indians and Mexicans probably being the worst off.

Everyone expects that this summer will see a renewal of violent clashes in the urban areas of the United States. Slashes in budget commitments for relief of the destitute means a deterioration of conditions rather than an improvement, or even maintenance of the status quo. The Congress action in instituting these cuts, in face of increases in the already massive expenditures on the Vietnam war, is bound to add fuel to the already blazing fires of discontent.

By summer's end tens of thousands of students will be returning to universities and colleges, many of them thoroughly disillusioned after a summer of unemployment. They will be joined by thousands of new students from the high schools who are reputed to be even more radically inclined than those presently attending university.

The scene appears to be set for a real explosion.

#### DRAFT RESISTANCE

In 1966 U.S. soldiers in Vietnam were volunteering at the rate of 66.5 per cent for a second tour of duty in the active fighting zone. Early this year the re-enlistment rate had dropped to 31.7 per cent and was still declining.

The sharp drop in re-enlistments reflected disenchantment with the war; the effects of world-wide protests against U.S. aggression; and the fact that the possibility of becoming a corpse in the interests of making Southeast Asia safe for U.S. investments did not appear to be a particularly attractive prospect.

What with draft resistance and the drastic drop in re-enlistments it is becoming extremely difficult for the U.S. war machine to find likely tenants for the thousands of wooden boxes they have stockpiled adjacent to the battlefield.

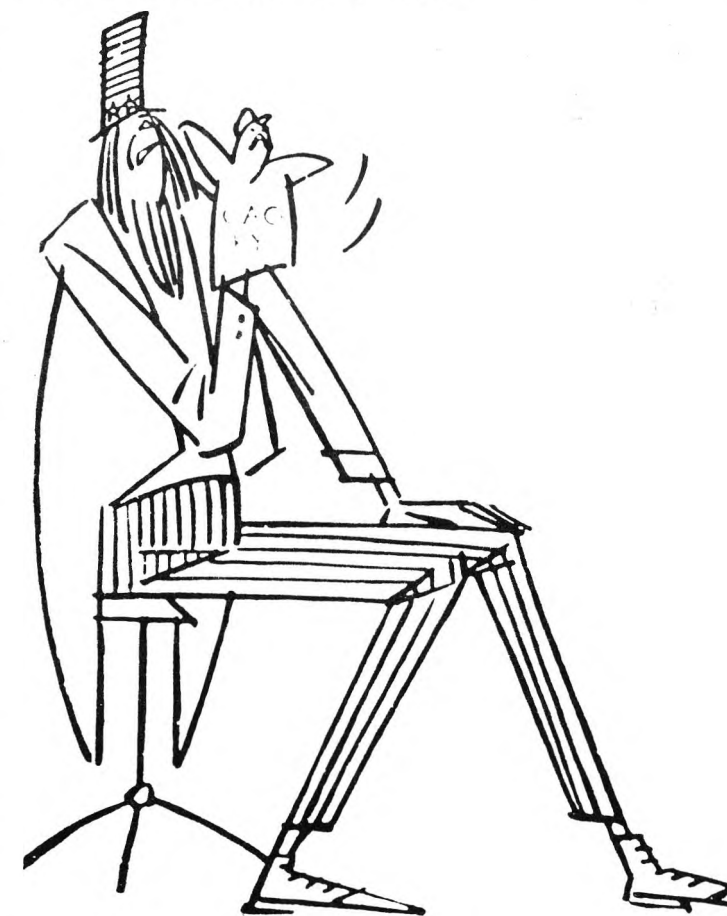
#### WHO CALLS THE SHOTS?

The puppet president of Saigon was credited recently with a statement claiming that U.S. troops could begin withdrawing from Vietnam in 1969. This, in itself, was an amendment of a previous estimate that withdrawal could start in the latter part of 1968.

Within hours after the Saigon declaration the U.S. Secretary of Defence, Clifford, took to radio, television and the press, to make a public statement which quickly put the puppet upstart in his place—under the thumb of Uncle Sam. Clifford, sharply disagreed with his Saigon errand boy, declared that he could see "no possibility of an early withdrawal from Vietnam" and cautioned the U.S. public not to expect any start to withdrawal as early as 1969.

Clifford's statements made two points clear; (1) Who the real boss is in Saigon, (2) That the U.S. aggressors have absolutely no intentions of beginning any voluntary withdrawal from Vietnam.

However, the official statement from the Secretary of Defence did not take into consideration a fact that is daily becoming more obvious: U.S. armed forces are about to be FORCED to evacuate the battlefield, or die and be buried where they stand.



U.S. puppet

by Turhan Seluğ Turkey

# POEMS

## POEMS OF RESISTENCE

by Martin Carter (Guyana)

This is what they do with me.  
Put me in prison, hide me away  
cut off the world, cut out the sun  
darken the land, blacken the flower  
strifle my breath and hope that I die!

But I laugh at them—  
I laugh because I know they cannot kill me  
nor kill my thoughts, nor murder what I write.  
I am a man living among my people  
Proud as the free the axeman cannot tumble—  
So if my people live I too must live  
And they will live, I tell you they will live!  
But these  
I laugh at them  
I do not know what thoughts pass through their  
minds.

Perhaps they do not think at all—  
Tigers don't think, nor toads nor sorting swine  
But only man, just listen and you know.  
In Kenya today they drink the blood of black women.  
In Malaya the hero is hunted and shot like a dog.  
Here, they watch us and lick their tongues like beasts  
Who crouch to prey upon some little child.

But I tell you  
Like a tide from the heart of things  
Inexorably and inevitably  
A day will come.

If I do not live to see that day  
My son will see it.  
If he does not see that day  
His son will see it.  
And it will come circling the world like fire  
It will come to this land and every land  
And when it comes I'll come alive again  
And laugh again and walk out of this prison.

### LET FREEDOM WAKE HIM

Give me your hand, comrade  
Do not cry little one, do not cry.  
This is the bond we make in the dark gloom about us  
Hand in hand! Heart in heart! Strength in strength!

If you see a smile of bitterness on my mouth  
You must not think some joke amuses me  
It is only the fury of my heart changing to scorn  
At the sight of a soldier seaching for me.

Comrade, the wind is sweet with eucalyptus  
Early at morn green grass reflects the sun  
Here in my home my little child lies sleeping  
Let freedom wake him — not a bayonet point.

Comrade, the world is loud with songs of freedom  
Mankind is breeding heroes every day  
On high the scarlet banners lies aloft  
Below the earth re-echoes liberty!



### Peoples Fuse

By Rewi Alley

Like a snarl from  
a wounded beast in its den  
comes a savage Pentagon  
voice, with a promise  
of worse for the people  
in Vietnam.

For  
U.S. ego must be buttered up  
Vietnamese daring crushed

even  
if A-B-C weapons  
atomic, bacterial, chemical  
are used

weapons  
that spell doom for the users  
as the attack on the good folk  
of South East Asia fails, and  
peoples fuse into one great  
resistance, stronger than  
anything that may be brought  
against them  
a resistance that will spread  
the whole great world around  
spelling  
an end  
to imperialism  
and bringing a new understanding  
of their power to create  
a dazzling new world  
to the common folk of our today.