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

VOLUME TEN NUMBER SIXTY THREE 399

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1974



FIFTEEN CENTS

# Nixon Is Finished!

# BULDA BABOR PARTY Workers Party Drive Begins

# Drive Out The Democrats And Republicans

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

The resignation of Richard Nixon is a tremendous victory for the working class and a powerful blow to the capitalist class all over the world.

This must be the signal for the working class to move into action, to demand in every union throughout the country the immediate formation of a labor party, to throw all the Democrats and Republicans out.

It was only the Workers League that has campaigned to force Nixon out, that marched in Washington, DC on March 16 and in all the major cities, to mobilize the power of the working class to bring this government down.

The labor movement must put a halt to the conspiracy between the Democrats and Republicans to impose a right-wing anti-labor government headed by Vice-President Gerald Ford.

The Democrats and Republicans desperately pressured Nixon to resign to avoid putting him on trial because they know

that Nixon's crimes expose the entire capitalist system and that Nixon's conviction would encourage millions of workers to deepen their struggle against both parties.

#### ELECTIONS

The Workers Party is running in the elections this year as the only alternative to the politicians of the Democrats and Republicans. We are the only movement that has led the fight for a labor party to defend the working class on the basis of a socialist program.

The political crisis of the Nixon government has been brought to a head by the strength of the working class and its determined struggle against every attack on living conditions and basic rights.

#### DECISIVE

The decisive force that finally led the politicians to vote impeachment after nearly two years of stalling was the new offensive launched by workers for wages all over the country, which has brought the capitalist economic crisis to the breaking point.

This offensive and the refusal of masses of workers to accept unemployment and inflation has created an enormous split in the ruling class.

This is the sharpest expression of the political and

economic crisis of the capitalist system internationally.

In the past year, the governments of Germany, Italy, and Britain were forced to resign, only to be replaced with even more unstable regimes, with less and less popular support.

The 50 year old dictatorship in Portugal and now the military junta in Greece have collapsed unleashing an explosion of revolutionary struggle.

In each country, the inability of the ruling classes to defeat the working class and force it to pay for the crisis through massive wage cuts and unemployment creates this crisis.

The downfall of Nixon—the leader of the most powerful capitalist nation in the world—means that the economic crisis, which is centered in the United States, must now lead to major battles between the two classes here

The American rulers are in the position of having to force a confrontation with the working class who has built up powerful unions and will fight to defend every gain won in the past. The capitalists face this task saddled with a president who has been exposed as a criminal to masses of people.

Both the Democratic and Republican Parties wanted Nixon to resign only in order to replace him with a "strong" Ford government whose first task will be



Terry Delgado—12th CD



Helen Halyard—14th CD

A special photo feature and article on the Workers Party petition campaign, the successful Meet-The-Candidates Bar-B-Que, and the Bushwick trailblazing campaign. See pages 4-5.

to tackle the job of preserving the capitalist system.

They know that Nixon's removal will strengthen the working class under conditions where the authority of both capitalist parties is shattered, and give a powerful impetus to the fight for a labor party.

The fact that the Congress and the Senate could draw out their investigations this long exposes the way in which the entire constitutional system was originally set up precisely to keep the representatives of big business as removed as possible from the democratic will of the masses of people.

The Constitution, from its origins, was a counterrevolutionary document, aimed at strengthening and consolidating the political powers of the wealthy industrialists and farmers in a period of rapid capitalist expansion and of revolutionary ferment among the

The Senate was designated as the body with the key power to convict a president in an impeachment trial because it was the least representative body and up until the early 20th century was appointed.

The framers of the Constitution modeled the president on the constitutional monarchs of Britain and invested the office of the presidency with enormous powers and authority, independent of the House or the Senate.

The Nixon administration from its beginning in 1968, sought to extend and strengthen the absolute powers inherent in the constitution, to turn the presidency into a one man form (Continued On Page 2)

# In The Midweek Edition

•"Build The Fourth International In Latin America." Editorial on the struggle for Trotskyism, reprinted from the first issue of the Spanish edition of the Fourth International magazine.

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#### To The Democrats And Republicans

(Continued From Page 1) of rule, as a transition to dicta-

This represents not the power hungry drive of an individual, Nixon, but the breakup of bourgeois democracy as the economic crisis threatens the collapse of the capitalist system and forces the ruling class to prepare for civil war against the working class.

This is why the moves towards dictatorship and the attacks on democratic rights will continue, under either a Democratic or Republican administration.

This can be seen in every struggle in the recent period. In every strike—miners at Harlan County, Borax workers in California, and now Western Electric workers who are fighting for the fundamental right to decent wages and a union, are faced with a reign of terror and intimidation by whole armies of police, while strikers are arrested, jailed, and beaten.

In every city, special units of paramilitary police are being trained with war weapons to

attack large crowds of people and police repression is intensified against the youth.

Already, as Nixon goes, a small but ruthless clique of men who speak for the heads of industry and the big bankers have taken over control of the government and make all the decisions on the economy, while the military acts more and more as a government in itself.

As these men pressure Nixon to resign, they are martialing their forces, and gearing the state for all-out war against the working class. Uncontrolled inflation means that they must now restore value to the dollar by crashing industry and recreating conditions not seen since the Depression.

The Democrats are complicit in these plans. They are already calling for a "united front" with the Republicans to save the system of private profit.

As the working class moves into struggle, these are the dangers it confronts. Nixon's removal opens up a new stage in

the class struggle, in which the old methods of militant strikes are not sufficient to defend the working class.

Today, the defense of the working class requires a political offensive and every strike poses the necessity for workers to unite as a class, in their own party, and to fight for political power.

#### **CHANGE**

It is only the Workers League that has warned from the beginning that the election of Richard Nixon signaled a change in the relations between classes. Following his election in 1968, we wrote in the Bulletin:

"We say that the Nixon victory will mean real blows against the organized trade union movement and the working class...Nixon is committed to a policy of recession and unemployment..

"We predict that the Democratic Party controlled Congress will go with Nixon all the way in the planned economic and

political attack on the working class."

#### REACTIONARY

In the November 13, 1972, issue of the Bulletin, we said, "The reelection of Richard Nixon means that the labor movement will now confront the most reactionary administration in the history of this country.

'It is necessary that the fight begin immediately for a Congress of Labor representing the trade unions and representatives of the unemployed, youth, students, unorganized...to begin work immediately to construct a labor party.'

Our perspective, that the working class had the power to force Nixon out, based on an understanding of the economic crisis, has been completely born

The Stalinists of the Communist Party lined up behind the Democrats during Nixon's administration and now, when his ouster is inevitable, they defend Nixon as a leader of

'peace' and oppose his impeachment.

The Socialist Workers Party has abstained from the struggle to force Nixon out and has completely dropped the fight for a labor party.

The Workers League declares that we will step up and deepen our campaign for a labor party, under the new conditions.

We will be the only party running in the upcoming elections fighting on a socialist program.

This fight must go forward in the unions in a bitter struggle against the AFL-CIO bureaucrats who refused to make any effort to force Nixon out and have already made their peace with Ford.

Our election campaign will be instrumental in building the Workers League as the mass revolutionary party to prepare for the struggle for power.

Time is of the greatest importance. We urge every worker to join the Workers League now.

# **Spinola Opens New Attack On Freedom Of Press**

"Those who act criminally in a concrete ideological aggression against the armed forces and the principles proclaimed by the (Armed Forces) Movement, be it by written means or by meetings or public demonstrations, will be severely punished."

So began a decree by the Portuguese military junta that signalled the beginning of a major crackdown on the press.

#### **VICTIM**

The first victim was Luta Popular, a Maoist journal whose editor, Saldanha Sanches, has been in military prison since May. The paper was suspended indefinitely for attacking the government's colonial policy.

Three afternoon daily papers were suspended last week for short periods of time after they reported a protest rally staged by the Maoists. The suspensions were lifted only after the entire press staff threatened to walk

#### PREPARATORY

The attacks on the press are preparatory measures for new attacks on the jobs and salaries of the working class. The new cabinet, dominated by the military and containing Socialist and Communist Party members, met for 17 hours over the weekend to discuss the deteriorating economic situation.

Portugal is now experiencing a massive inflation combined with recession. The cabinet is expected to propose an austerity budget to slash living standards. Above all, agreement was reached on a formula to severely restrict the right to strike.



### **Fascists Admit Train Bombing**

Thousands of workers marched through the streets of Rome under anti-fascist banners after the fascist Ordine Nero (Black Order) group claimed responsibility for exploding a time bomb Sunday on a packed Italian tourist train.

The train, the Italicus, was making a run between Rome and Munich, carrying Italians who were leaving the country on vacation. The explosion occurred at 1:30 in the morning outside Bologna, as the train was coming out of a 10 mile long tunnel.

It crushed the roof of the train's fifth carriage and set it ablaze. A second explosion came minutes later. Twelve people were killed and 48 injured. Only two months ago, another fascist group, the Mussolini Action Squad exploded a bomb in the

middle of an anti-fascist demonstration in the town of Breschia, killing six people. In their statement, Ordine Nero stated they had carried out the bombing "to demonstrate that we are capable of placing bombs where we want, at any time, in any place, when and where we please."

The fascists can operate freely, are rarely caught or brought to trial because high government officials and the police collaborate with and encourage them.

# **Zimbabwe**

#### BY FRANK MARTIN

Prime Minister Ian Smith's racist Rhodesia Front swept all 50 whiteallotted seats in the recent Rhodesian general elections.

This sets the stage for a sharp intensification of the political crisis inside the white-ruled former British colony (known in African as Zimbabwe).

Of the 5.7 million Africans, only 7000 are allowed to vote. All these votes went to the African National Congress (ANC), the only legal African nationalist party.

#### **CRISIS**

Smith's regime has been thrown into crisis particularly since the fall of the fascist Caetano regime in Portugal and the movement of the African masses in Mozambique towards inde-

If Mozambique goes indepen-

dent, this would cut off Rhodesia from its only gateway to the Indian Ocean and create impossible economic conditions. Meanwhile, 1000 African stevedores walked off their jobs at the port of Lourenco Marques, the capital city of Mozambique.

Smith called the election in order to rally support for his plans to step up the war against the guerrillas, particularly in the northeast. The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) has been making steady advances against Smith's army in heavy fighting over the last few months.

#### **PLANS**

Smith's plans include the mass deportation and terrorization of thousands of African workers. Forty-seven thousand of the 60,000 African workers living in the town of Chiweshe, 45 miles north of the capital of Salisbury, will be forcefully moved to 21 "protected villages", better known as concentration camps. Smith is desperately seeking a deal with Britain to recognize his regime and through that, a deal with the bourgeois nationalists in the ANC. Last year's referendum organized by the British Tory government which called for majority rule "at some tuture date" was overwhelmingly rejected by the African masses.

#### ACCEPTED

However, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the ANC, reportedly accepted a deal with Smith on May 8 which would have granted only 6 more seats to the Africans and retained the separate voting rolls.

The refusal of the African masses to accept such deals forced the ANC central council to reject the deal. Following this, Smith rounded up and arrested 53 local ANC leaders.

The crisis in Mozambique and Zimbabwe poses revolutionary struggles throughout the area. It is already leading to a direct confrontation with the mainstay of imperialism in Southern Africa, the apartheid Vorster regime.

#### **Economic Crisis Squeezes** Caribbean Countries

#### BY STEVE LIGHT

The economic crisis is creating an unprecedented political crisis throughout the Caribbean.

The Caribbean has been thrown into an impossible trading position in relation to the industrialized countries in Europe and America. Foreign capital controls the key agricultural and mining sectors and the industrialized countries set prices.

A Caribbean Common Market has been set up to bargain over prices. Along with similar formations in Africa and the Pacific they have been engaged in negotiations with the European Common Market. The Common Market has refused to give into any of their demands.

The ruling classes and their

political representatives in the Caribbean have now turned to an all-out attack on the living standards of the working class. Prices have been jacked up to North American levels, geared to catching tourist dollars. Recent strikes for pay raises, particularly by telephone operators in Trinidad, have met with heavy government resistance.

In Barbados, Prime Minister Barrow has demanded emergency powers in response to a threat by the National Union of Public Workers to strike for a cost-of-living allowance.

Barrow's plans to change the constitution to assure the continued rule of his Democratic Labor Party have openly been denounced as a "move towards dictatorship" by the press and all the opposition parties.

In Guyana, Cheddi Jagan, leader of the reformist Peoples Progressive Party has been arrested by the Forbes Burnham

THE BUILDETIN Twice weekly organ of the Workers League, is published by Labor Publications, incorporated, Seventh Floor 135 W 14th St. New York, NY 10011, Published twice weekly except the last week of December and the inst week of August The Fland Brasches of the St. New York, NY, 10011 Phone, 924, 0852. Subscription rates, USA 1 year \$6.00.6 menths, \$3.00.2 months, \$1.00. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE, PAID AT NEW YORK, NY, Printed in U.S.A.

# Police Attack IBEW Pickets

BY DAVID NORTH

The strike of 80,000 workers at ten Western Electric plants, a unit of American Telephone and Telegraph, threatens to blow the separate agreement of the Communications Workers sky high.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) struck Western Electric Tuesday morning after the CWA had called off a strike threatened for Monday, breaking an agreement between the two unions to fight together.

The Western Electric strike will now encourage the CWA members to reject the proposed settlement that includes only a seven percent increase the first year, 10.7 percent the second year, and 3.3 percent in the two remaining years, with a cost of living allowance.

#### **SPREAD**

On Tuesday morning, the IBEW strike spread to include the 1300 workers at the Newark, New Jersey plant and the same day servicemen, clerks, and operators in the Washington DC locals of the CWA wildcatted against the agreement.

On Wednesday morning, at stormy union meetings, local CWA leaders ordered the strikers back to work and threatened them with reprisals. One official of Local 2300 told the Bulletin:

"This is an illegal wildcat. I have told my people to return to work. I am trying to keep my people in control and I don't want anything in the press."

Local 2236, representing the servicemen, has sanctioned the strike only after several workers had tried to return to work and were locked out by management.

#### "SELLOUT"

In New York, Anthony Canopoulos, president of CWA Local 1150, representing 4000 workers in AT&T's Long Lines department, accused CWA international president Glenn Watts of a

"sellout" and of breaking his pledge to fight for 15 percent in wages the first year.

Canopoulos said he didn't think the CWA members would approve the contract because of strong opposition by local leaders across the country. The contract is voted on by mail ballot.

Terry Daly, treasurer of Local 1101 of the New York Telephone Company, said the agreement was "totally unacceptable" especially on the issue of working conditions.

#### **ATTACKS**

Brutal attacks have been organized by AT&T management and police against workers on picket lines outside Western Electric facilities in Kearney and Newark, New Jersey.

Police mounted on horses broke up a picket line in Newark on Tuesday morning. One woman worker was kicked by a horse. At the huge Kearney Western Electric complex, three workers were hospitalized after a pick-up truck drove through a picket line and knocked down seven people. Shortly after that incident, a car knocked down another worker picketing in front of a different gate.

Outraged by the assault against the picket line, workers laid down in front of the gate and refused to move.

"This stuff is going on every day," declared Otto Marchica, a picket captain. He stated that one worker was kicked in the groin by a scab on Tuesday.

"Everyday there's an incident," he said. "It's getting worse all the time. We've got casualties on our side. The Hudson County police are pretty quick with their clubs.

"But we're obeying the laws. Sure, we've booed the scabs, but that's a democratic American right."

# Maryland AFL-CIO Rejects Endorsement

BY A REPORTER

BALTIMORE—The Maryland AFL-CIO has voted to withhold its endorsement of Democratic Governor Marvin Mandel in the Democratic primary this September, because of his actions during the recent citywide strike.

The vote of the delegates of the AFL-CIO's Committee for Political Education, representing 300,000 workers in the state, also means that no endorsement of either Democratic candidate will be made.

#### SLAP

But AFL-CIO president Dominic Fornaro made clear that the decision was only meant as a slap on Mandel's wrist and said "We just let him know how we feel."

Fornaro left open the possibility they will endorse Mandel after the primary is over.

Following the municipal workers strike, Mandel pledged no re-

prisals against striking police-

But immediately after the settlement, Police Chief Pomerleau fired 91 police, and decertified the union, a local of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers Union. Collective bargaining and dues check off were cancelled.

Mandel has recently come under scrutiny by federal investigators who have charged two of Mandel's closest friends with political corruption.

The strike wave of workers all over the country has brought relations between the labor movement and the Democratic party to the breaking point. The labor leadership, however, clings to the Democrats despite their open strikebreaking and union-busting.

Baltimore trade unionists must demand a complete break and the building of a labor partyas the alternative to both parties.



# NYC Taxi Drivers Prepare Strike

Taxi drivers are prepared to strike Friday if the fleet owners go ahead with their threat to cancel their contract with Local 3036.

The owners have declared that they will terminate union contracts unless the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission grants permission for a 20.5 percent fare hike.

Drivers have opposed the increase because it would mean a pay cut, the result of a cut in passengers and smaller tips.

The Taxi Commission has denied the increase, not because it cares about the increased cost of riding a taxi but because the Beame administration is anxious

to bring about a confrontation with the drivers and break up the union.

The attempt by the fleet owners to destroy the union has been helped by the Van Arsdale leadership of Local 3036. There has been no new contract to replace the one which expires last November 16. Van Arsdale has kept the drivers on the job with a day-to-day extension of the contract.

Now, the fleet owners' decision to terminate the extension has caught the union by surprise.

A strike scheduled for Monday night was averted when Van Arsdale accepted a 72-hour extension of the contract.

### 'This Camp Is A Must For Every Young Worker'

The following is an interview with John Austin, organizer of the Dayton branch of the Workers League and a member of the United Auto Workers Union at the Delco-Moraine plant.

"I'm looking forward to the Workers League-Young Socialists summer camp with much enthusiasm and great anticipation.

"Not only does the camp offer unlimited sports activities from every variety imaginable but the lectures will provide a chance for those attending to take a theoretical leap in their knowledge in the history of our movement and the urgency of the tasks which confront it.

"Last year coming to the camp as a fresh trade unionist recruit to the Workers League I found the contrast almost staggering. On the one hand we had been working six and seven days per week, all year under conditions of speedup and constant

harassment by foremen in a filthy, unsafe factory and on the other hand, the camp provided an atmosphere where I could relax and begin to discover the exact nature of the system that exploited me so ruthlessly and how it could be dealt with.

"The camp represented a leap in the growth of the Workers League for several reasons. It was the first camp ever to be held by the Workers League and it was a highly successful camp. Over 350 workers and youth came together on the basis of the need to confront the tremendous economic crisis which affected their daily lives.

"Workers who were there related stories of similar rapidly deteriorating conditions in their plants and reinforced each other's pledge to an all-out fight to rid the working class of Nixon and the rotten system we live under.

"Out of this came the perspectives which transformed the Workers League from a propaganda circle into a serious mass workers' organization.

"The Young Socialists and the

nature of the youth work as a whole are a direct result of the knowledge obtained from the tremendous struggle to bring youth to the camp, the fight to get them to accept theory and the perspective to build a mass Young Socialists who will turn to the trade unionists with the program of the Workers League and to help train him for the revolutionary struggles that will bring the working class to power.

"The upcoming camp, August 24 to September 2, will take place on a new and higher level than last year. This year, youth and workers will be coming to the camp who have been exposed and trained to some extent in Marxist philosophy. This combined with the ever-increasing attacks on the working class promises to produce a highly developed group of fighters who will enable the Workers League to leap ahead in the serious work of constructing a leadership within the factories and the communities from which these youth and workers have come.

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John Austin

pecially to the young worker and the trade unionist. Nixon and his economic advisors have issued an open challenge to the workers by bluntly stating that workers will have to "pay the price" for inflation by having their jobs snatched away. Such mass unemployment will unleash massive struggles and explosions in labor and in unheard of proportions. This is inevitable,

so the time to build the leadership for these explosions is now.

"Labor must come together. Labor must have its own party. But this cannot and will not be done by itself.

"Sign up today. Come to the Workers League-Young Socialists summer camp, or contribute so that someone else might

BY BARRY GREY

On the weekend of August 3-4, 20,879 workers and youth in Brooklyn, New York, signed the nominating petition to place the candidates of the Workers Party on the ballot in the congressional election this year.

This is nearly three times the legal requirement of 3500 signatures needed for each candidate.

In addition, a total of \$1052.80 was raised in donations by those who signed the petitions to help finance the campaign.

The tremendous response to this campaign shows the hatred of millions of workers not only for Nixon but for the entire capitalist class, both Democrats and Republicans.

The support for our candidates who are running on the basis of a fight for a labor party pledged to socialist policies shows that masses of workers are seeking an alternative and are turning towards the Workers League.

Workers lined up to sign our petitions despite the vote by the House Judiciary Committee to impeach Nixon because they have no confidence in the Democrats and see that both parties represent big business.

Terry Delgado will be running in the 12th Congressional Dis-

trict (Bushwick, Brownsville, and part of Bedford Stuyvesant) and Helen Halyard is running in the 14th District (Fort Greene, Gowanus, and part of Bedford Stuyvesant).

With Nixon on the brink of resigning, the Workers Party will expose Congress, its refusal to act against Nixon, and bring forward the central task facing the working class—the building of a labor party. In this campaign the Workers League will broaden and strengthen a movement in all the communities and lay the basis for becoming a mass revolutionary party.

Workers League and Young Socialist members from all over the East Coast and the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Detroit branches came to New York for the petition drive. Teams of petitioners campaigned in all the main shopping district areas in the electoral districts with the largest teams using loudspeakers for street rallies.

Everywhere workers, house-wives and youth eagerly signed petitions. Many who said at first, "I'm not voting for anybody" signed the petition and contributed money when they were told that our campaign was to build a party of the working class as an alternative. The new campaign buttons saying "Force Nixon Out" were an immediate success and were all sold out early in the day.

One girl signed a petition saying "I'd do anything to fight Nixon." She was told about the

that evening and showed up at the party two hours before it began, to buy tickets for herself and her husband. When she returned for the party she brought six other people from the community

Hundreds of people contributed generously to the campaign, stuffing dollar bills, quarters, dimes and nickels into the soda cans carried by the petitioners. One petitioner alone raised \$50 on the first day of the drive.

Out of this campaign a barbecue party was held on August 3 in Bushwick attended by 350 workers and youth, the largest such affair in the history of the Workers League and Young Socialists.

Disco dancing was combined with a delicious barbecue dinner of chicken, ribs, potato salad, corn and keg beer.

Many families and trade unionists from many different industries came for the first time, including workers from the Navy Yard where the Bulletin trailblazers have campaigned outside the plant gates.

The largest groups of more than 50 people each came from the Bushwick and Bedford Stuyvesant areas.

In the middle of the party everyone crowded into the living room to hear Tim Wohlforth, national secretary of the Workers League and the candidates speak on how the campaign would be taken forward.

Terry Delgado thanked everyone for coming and for making the petition campaign and the collection a big success.

"We are running in this election, for a labor party, in order to build a revolutionary movement in the neighborhoods and in the unions to unite workers and youth against this rotten system.

"Central to our fight to build a new branch of the Workers League in Bushwick was our first Young Socialists meeting. We campaigned in a mass way."

Helen Halyard said, "We received a tremendous response in our trailblazing drive in Bushwick. We got 1500 subscriptions to the Bulletin in the area. When we went out with the petitions today, it was not just a question of forcing Nixon out, but of people turning to our movement as an alternative."

Tim Wohlforth said that the petition drive and the barbecue express the determination of workers to fight this government. Every single aspect of workers lives; jobs, wages, education, is under attack. It is now time for workers to speak with their own voice, to force Nixon out and have their own party."

The Bushwick trailblazing drive marked an important step forward in building a movement among Spanish speaking workers and youth. Bushwick is about 70 percent Spanish-speaking and 30 percent Black.

In all, 1505 subscriptions to the Bulletin and 150 to the Young Socialist newspaper were sold in the course of the two-week drive. The trailblazers campaigned among every section of the community, selling subscriptions to housewives in the shopping areas, trade unionists in their homes and on the job, and youth in the streets. The trailblazers campaigned with literature tables and a bullhorn in the shopping areas on Broadway and at the Navy Yard.

The response to the election campaign was tremendous. Over 700 copies of the election manifesto were sold and \$285.57 was raised for the campaign. The turn of masses of workers and youth to questions of Marxism and socialism was reflected in the sale of \$341.56 worth of literature.

On the second day of the trailblazing drive, the team campaigned at a demonstration called to protest the cuts in day care services. Thousands of women turned out in the pouring rain to express their anger at Mayor Beame, a Democrat, and demand full day care facilities.

Workers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard are feeling the impact of unemployment, brutal speedup, and the destruction of safety conditions. During the first week of the campaign, a diver was killed at the yard when he was trapped under water.

One young worker told the Bulletin: "The conditions here are very dangerous. I've only been here a short time and I'm only a helper, but I have to climb way up on the ship without any protection. Something definitely has to be done."

The high point of the trailblazer was the Young Socialists meeting to launch the new branch, attended by over 25 youth.

Alvina, a young mother, said, "This is the first movement I've ever seen. People should wake up. I woke up.

"Now I'm going to fight to see that everybody knows about the Young Socialists and the Workers League, because this movement has a program to force Nixon out!"

A separate discussion was held in Spanish with four youth, who spoke no English. The discussion centered on the necessity to construct a revolutionary party to prepare for the period of civil war we have entered.

Felipe wanted to know how we were going to build a mass movement. He spoke of the particular problems of Latin American workers who come to this country to find work and are forced to work for the lowest wages.

Eleven youth signed up to join the YS and plans were laid to build the next meeting of the Bushwick Young Socialists.

The petition campaign and barbecue in Brooklyn were the culmination of a tremendously successful series of sports tournaments, picnics and barbecues held across the country during the summer months, attended by a total of 2355.

The campaign began in May with an Ohio-Michigan sports tournament which brought over 100 youth. Last month 185 youth participated in an East Coast sports tournament held at Riis Beach in New York. All together 285 youth attended these sports events and another for the Ohio Michigan area will be held on August 10.

A series of picnics with a talk by Tim Wohlforth on "Watergate, the Ugly Face of Capitalism" were attended by a total of 740 people. The picnic in Cleveland was attended by 100 workers and youth from Cleveland, Youngstown, Dayton and Detroit.

The North Central branches, St. Louis, Chicago, and the Twin Cities brought 100 people to a picnic in St. Louis. The Twin Cities branches held a separate outing of 35.

On the West Coast, the Bay Area branches held a picnic of 50 people early in June and just recently held a second picnic, bringing 55. The Los Angeles branch brought 75 workers and youth to a very successful outing two weeks ago. In addition to the youth, trade unionists attended from the docks.

At the end of June, the East Coast branches brought 325 people to an outing at Arrow Park, near Bear Mountain.

A series of extremely successful barbecues were held as well by the East Coast and Mid-West branches. In all 1330 people attended these functions.

Previous to the Bushwick barbecue, branches held two barbecues attended by a total of 450 people. In the Midwest: Cleveland, 110, Youngstown, 110, Chicago, 100, Detroit, 55, Baltimore, 55, Dayton, 50, and St. Louis, 30.

These figures represent the growth of the Workers League and Young Socialists in the recent period as workers and youth hit by recession, inflation and government repression turn towards the revolutionary movement for leadership.

It shows that as this crisis deepens, and masses of workers are forced into struggle, the Workers League can be transformed into a mass movement of thousands of trade unionists and youth in the next period with a broad base in the communities.

These changes pose a new responsibility. The most critical task now is the training of those who have come towards us, as Marxists and revolutionaries. We must fight to train a new layer of cadres who in turn will make possible the next leap in our development as a mass revolutionary party in the class battles that must now take place

We urge all our supporters who have come to Workers League barbecues or outings to take this most important step and join the Workers League and prepare the leadership that will bring the American working class to power.



Above: Workers Party candidate Helen Halyard, running for Congress in the 14th Congressional District in Brooklyn, petitions in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Below: Workers, young and old, enthusiastically sign the nominating



# 2,400 Rally To Workers League Over Summer



# Workers Party Begins Drive!



Top: Terry Delgado, Workers Party candidate from the 12th Congressional District, speaks to hundreds of supporters at the Bar-B-Que in New York on Augusti3. Above: Chicken, ribs and the latest Latin and soul sounds were enjoyed by everyone.

Dowson's split follows the departure in October, 1973, of 70 members of the LSA who, with some other elements, set up the Revolutionary Marxist Group, which claims allegiance to the Mandel faction of the Unified Secretariat.

The RMG claims to attack the LSA from the left. It is made up largely of people who came out of the middle class protest movements in the late 1960s. Although these people attack the LSA's adaptation to the Lewis bureaucracy in the NDP and use "revolutionary" phrases and slogans, the aim of these radicals is to liquidate even the semblance of an independent revolutionary organization into the protest movements.

Following their mentors in the British IMG, they raise the slogans: "Junk the old Trotskyism" and "Lenin and Trotsky without Leninism and Trotskyism." They turn on the history of Trotskyism because they are opposed to the building of Trotskyist parties to lead the working class to power, which can only proceed on the basis of the knowledge gained in this history.

In the early part of 1973, as the RMG tendency began to emerge within the LSA, Dowson organized his own faction on two main points: advocacy of Canadian nationalism and uncriticial support for the NDP. Although he backed off from a split when the RMG group left the LSA, he retained his differences. In the middle of this year, he left the organization to set up his own group, the Socialist League, and printed the first issue of its newspaper, Forward.

Dowson is not just anyone in the LSA. For over 30 years, he was a member of the LSA and its predecessor organizations. For the last 20 years, he was its national secretary.

During that time, he was the closest and most loyal collaborator of the US Socialist Workers Party, particularly in questions affecting the international Trotskyist movement. More than any other single individual, he is responsible for what the LSA is today.

This is the significance of Dowson's resignation—his evolution is merely the extension of Pabloism to its logical conclusion

In the lead article of the first issue of Forward, written just prior to the July 8 federal election, NDP leader David Lewis is quoted extensively. The editors then add: "We subscribe to these words!"

They then go on to say: "Of course, it is not difficult to criticize the NDP," because of "certain shortcomings and gaps in its program" and its "reformist illusions." "But such criticisms, no matter how correct, do not constitute a position in the election debate that is dominating the mass media, and which everyone is caught up in

up in.

"The NDP does pose a real alternative, as a labor party, to the twin political tools of the capitalist class—the Liberals and Tories. A powerful vote behind the NDP and its election into office in Ottawa would mark a significant stride forward to a socialist Canada."

There is very little one can add to these words. Shelve the criticism; line up behind Lewis; NDP all the way. Lewis has received worse criticism at Federal Council meetings than he gets here.

The entire paper continues in this vein. It is written so as to defend Lewis against anyone who would dare attack him. On the second page, there is an extensive article lavishly praising the three provincial NDP governments for instituting reforms. The point of the article is that they have not gone far enough.

The article ends by saying: "It (socialism) will require a class struggle program that commences from the needs of the working people and their present level of consciousness and takes them forward in struggle for power. That program must be developed and fought for in the trade unions and the labor party—the NDP."

Forward does not stop here. It takes up arms against anyone who would suggest that the NDP's coalition with the Liberals was a mistake, let alone a conscious betrayal.

"In critically supporting certain Liberal measures and winning limited concessions, the NDP has not betrayed independent class politics. They have acted as union negotiators do in postcontract struggles; the balance of forces has already been tested—in election or strike—and the

# The Evolution of Ross I





Lent: NDP leader David Lewis addresses last year's NDP Convention. A Ross Dowson. Right: Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière, Quebec wing of the

union must either project the workers into risky strikes, or maneuver within the established framework until a favorable time arises to alter the relationship."

Dowson also gives a lengthy defense of Canadian nationalism in an article on the Vancouver convention of the Canadian Labor Congress: "This nationalism has fused and accelerated the struggle for democracy in the unions without which they can only degenerate into instruments of the capitalist state.".

Dowson is declaring openly against the construction of a revolutionary party. Socialism will develop through the NDP.

All that is necessary is to fill in the "gaps" and overcome the "short-comings." The trade union bureaucrats will become pillars of rank and file democracy if only they break their links with the international unions.

This is the position of a man who has renounced every principle of Trotskyism; who now openly stands as a social democrat against the development of the revolutionary movement. Dowson, from his own side, agrees with the slogan of the RMG—"Junk the old Trotskyism."

From all of this, one thing must be answered: How can a man who spent 30 years in a leading position in a movement claiming to be Trotskyist end up in such a right-wing position?

Dowson feels no need to explain his evolution. He says his split was caused by his differences with the LSA over the nationalist and NDP questions.

Neither has the LSA made any assessment of his leaving, because this would involve an assessment of its own history, something which the LSA fears most of all. It would reveal that the present disintegration of the LSA is the result of its own unprincipled break with Trotskyism.

In order to draw the lessons from Dowson's evolution, it is necessary to go back to the origins of the Trotskyist movement in North America.

The founding of the Trotskyist movement on this continent was the result of the

activity of two men—James Cannon, a leader of the American Communist Party, and Maurice Spector, chairman of the Canadian Communist Party and editor of its newspaper.

From the outset, the Canadian and American movements have had the closest relationship. This was for objective reasons, reflecting the close ties between the working classes of the two countries.

Capitalism has tended to develop, not separately in the US and in Canada, but rather has tended to cross the border. Cities like Vancouver and Seattle, Toronto and Buffalo, Detroit and Windsor, have been tied together more closely than with other cities in their respective countries. This development of capitalism has reflected itself in the working class through the development of the international unions, which is not at all a bureaucratic invention, but results from the fact that workers on both sides of the border often face the same employer and the same

The collaboration between Cannon and Spector was based, first of all, on international perspectives. Both men attended the Sixth Congress of the Communist International in 1928. By then, the Comintern was entirely under Stalin's control.

After managing to get hold of Trotsky's criticism of the Comintern's draft program, they decided together to stand with Trotsky against Stalin. They stood with Trotsky particularly in his opposition to Stalin's theory of socialism in one country.

Returning to North America after the congress, they took up the fight for Trotskyism against the Stalinist degeneration of the Communist Parties. They began to assemble cadres in the fight for their principled program. This work was critical, not simply for North America, but for the entire international movement, because it aided immeasurably Trotsky's fight to assemble the cadres to maintain the continuity of Leninism and to found the Fourth International.

Spector played an important role in this fight. For a number of years after his expulsion from the Communist Party, he fought to build the Trotskyist movement in Canada. Though the movement never grew substantially, Spector did succeed in winning over some forces and began publishing a periodical.

In the mid-1930s, Spector went to the United States and did some theoretical and journalistic work for the American movement.

#### 1953 SPLIT

Throughout the 1930s and the early 1940s, a group continued to do work in Canada. Because of the support and advice it received from the Socialist Workers Party, it was able to develop some of its work and maintain its existence through some difficult circumstances. This was a principled relationship, in which the SWP, as the leading and most experienced section of the Fourth International, took responsibility for the development of the sections of the movement in other countries.

In 1953, a fundamental split took place inside the Fourth International. A revisionist tendency had developed around the leader of the Fourth International, Michel Pablo. Pablo had developed the theory that, in the postwar period, the Stalinist parties could be pressured by the masses into leading revolutionary struggles against imperialism. The implications of this theory were clear—the task of the Trotskyist movement was no longer to fight to build independent parties to lead the working class to power, but to become pressure groups on the Stalinists to push them to the left.

What was being posed here was a revision of every principle that Trotsky had ever fought for, and the very liquidation of the Fourth International. The SWP shared responsibility in this development because it had, in the period following World War Two, turned away from international questions and left the movement in control

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# OWSON by Frank Martin



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of a group of intellectuals, led by Pablo and Ernest Mandel, who had little day to day experience in the building of a working class party

Yet, when faced with Pablo's attempt to force sections of the Fourth International to actually carry out his theories and liquidate their work, the SWP decided to make a break. It issued an "Open Letter" in which it denounced Pablo's attack on the need for a party and called on all sections to break with his theories and return to the road of Trotskyism. This led to the founding of the International Committee of the Fourth International in 1953.

This break with Pablo was fundamental. It assured the continuity of the movement against an attempt to disrupt and disorientate its work. Yet many of the sections of the Fourth International sided with Pablo. It was not sufficient simply to denounce Pabloism. It was necessary to go to the roots of Pablo's revisionism, for the work of the movement to proceed.

The first reaction of the Canadian move ment to the SWP's "Open Letter" was a resolution on November 29, 1953 denouncing it and claiming allegiance to Pablo's Fourth International. This may seem surprising in light of the close connections between the Canadian and American groups.

Dowson, who had joined the movement in the mid-1940s and by that time was its national secretary, later wrote Farrell Dobbs of the SWP on December 2, 1953: 'Your 'Open Letter' was like a bolt from the blue. Our connections have always been very poor with the International and the various sections.

"Our relations with Pablo have been most fraternal-they have amounted to our sending the odd report, their making some general favorable comment, and our sending them whatever help we could scrape together. We had no complaints and since we have had poor connections with the sections were totally unaware that anyone else had any.'

There is only one problem with this

explanation-why, if the "Open Letter" was such a surprise and their connections with Pablo so distant, didn't they wait to find out more before denouncing the "Open

The truth of the matter is that the Canadian group had developed theories very similar to Pablo's. This came out particularly in the group's work, in the CCF (predecessor to the NDP).

In 1951, in an internal bulletin, Dowson wrote: "It is no longer sufficient for our party to have merely a CCF orientation, the fundamental orientation of the party since 1946. The question of entry—the dissolution of the independent party and the integration of its forces knit together as a fraction in the CCF-stands posed before

"For us, this matter is settled on the basis of: 1. the present weaknesses and isolation of the independent party, 2. recognition that the course of the development of the masses is through the CCF.

s in no way different from Pahlo call to liquidate the Trotskyist parties into the Stalinist movement.

In the middle of February, 1954, Murray Weiss, as the spokesman of the SWP, held a series of meetings in Toronto with the Toronto branch and the leading members.

In reporting back to Farrell Dobbs, Weiss wrote on February 18, 1954: "The section is now right in the middle of the crisis. A national Pabloite faction has developed."

Weiss reports that the Pabloites had won close to half the Toronto branch. The majority, led by Dowson, had come out in favor of the "Open Letter," but had no idea how to fight the Pabloites. They even asked Weiss whether or not to send Pablo money.

Weiss completes his assessment of the situation by saying: "I am convinced that Pabloism, that is, real Pabloism, has taken a deep hold in the whole organization up here. They don't fully realize it.

"They think they are all united in the work in the CCF. And they are, but on a Pabloite line, I'm afraid. They have become infected with this terrible disease of thinking that everything can be solved with fancy endless maneuvers in the CCF, with 'deep' entry conceptions.

"In my opinion, the Canadians will not get out of the woods fundamentally until they begin to publish a Marxist periodical of some kind and begin the fight for Trotskyism in Canada. Ross told me he had been thinking along these lines

"All their good work in the CCF could be utterly wasted and turn into the opposite of what was intended without a drastic reorientation in the direction of building a Trotskvist cadre.'

What Weiss makes clear is "the whole organization" including Dowson and the pro-SWP faction had gone over to Pabloism, to "real Pabloism," as Weiss puts it, that is to the liquidationist perspective of Pabloism.

What Weiss proposes is a fundamental rearming of the movement, a turn to the theoretical training of a cadre.

Weiss's assessment of the situation is absolutely correct. As long as this theoretical training of the movement, the probing of Pabloism to its roots, was not carried out, the Canadian organization's split with Pabloism would only remain superficial, more a result of their loyalty to the SWP than anything else.

#### 1963: REUNIFICATION WITH THE **PABLOITES**

The SWP, as part of the International Committee, continued to carry on a serious political and theoretical fight against Pabloism right through 1954. Then, without any further assessment, it dropped the fight in its press and in its movement. It claimed that the question had been resolved, that it had no further need to discuss it. This signalled a turn away by the SWP from its responsibilities in the international movement, back to a national perspective. Within three years, Cannon was writing Leslie Goonewardene of the Ceylonese LSSP sounding out the possibility of a reunification with the Pabloites.

What Weiss had posed to Dobbs in his letter in relation to the theoretical rearming of the movement was equally applicable to the SWP. The lessons of the struggle against Pabloism had to be assimilated and the practice of the party changed in order for the work of the movement to proceed.

This was not done. By dropping this work, the SWP laid the basis for a return to the Pabloites.

The effects this had on the relations between the American and the Canadian movement were important. Since 1928, the relations between the Canadian and American movements had been based on a principled international perspective. As the SWP turned away from international perspectives and responsibilities, it sought to use the Canadian movement as a tool in its road back to the Pabloites.

The SWP turned against the British Socialist Labour League (now the Workers Revolutionary Party), which had been the SWP's closest collaborators in the 1953 split with the Pabloites.

The SLL insisted on a full discussion between the International Committee and the Pabloites of all the differences raised since 1953 before any reunification took place. The SWP refused to confront these issues and set out to poison the atmosphere against the SLL through factional activity.

Joseph Hansen led this work for the SWP and turned for support to the Canadian movement and Ross Dowson, in particular. Gerry Healy, national secretary of the SLL, writing in 1962, refers to Dowson's activities while on a trip to England: "Unfortunately, the activity of the Pabloites has been to some extent successful in provoking a factional atmosphere between ourselves and the majority. A good percentage of the activity of people like Dowson during his visit here was taken up with misrepresenting small factional points which were then relayed to the US in order to sharpen up the differences."

Dowson (since the SWP is not allowed to formally affiliate to international bodies because of reactionary US legislation) led a rump section of the International Committee in a walkout in 1963 and formalized the reunification with the Pabloites.

Dowson and the LSA were suited to this kind of factionalizing activity. Because they had never broken from their Pabloite perspective, they were the most vehement supporters of reunification.

There is a sidelight to this period which is important. In 1953, the Vancouver branch had been the most consistent opponents of the Pabloites. This was largely due to their close relations with the SWP's Seattle branch and their knowledge of the activities of the American Pabloites, the Cochran-Clarke faction.

Yet towards the end of the 1950s, a faction in this branch led by Whitney split from the LSA and virtually liquidated into the CCF. This faction was opposed by Ruth Bullock who supported Dowson and remained inside the party. The Whitney group shows the extent to which none of the lessons of the fight against Pabloism had been assimilated. In 1963, on the basis of reunification, Dowson sought to bring Whitney back into the party, but Whitney refused.

The relations between the LSA and the SWP were transformed. Now, instead of fighting for a political and theoretical development in the Canadian movement, the SWP used it as a weapon against those who opposed its turn away from Trotskvism.

Dowson trained whole cadres of his movement in these methods. The most prominent of these was Ernest Tate. Under Hansen's directions, Dowson sent over a crew to England under Tate's leadership. Their aim was to, in any way possible, throw up an organization in opposition to the SLL. This was done in the spirit of the most hysterical, factional, brawler.

Tate manufactured an incident in which he claimed that a steward at an SLL public meeting had been deliberately ordered by the SLL leadership to beat Tate up. In actual fact, Tate had provoked the incident himself and could not offer a scrap of evidence to show that the SLL leadership had ordered him beat up.

Tate used this incident to carry out a slander campaign against the SLL. appealing and using the bourgeois press who were more than ready to use anything they could find against the revolutionary movement.

With these methods, Dowson, Tate, and Co. set up the International Marxist Group, a group of middle class adventurers and renegades from the Trotskyist movement.

This activity, whose motor force was only the blindest factionalism totally devoid of any principles, has now shown its results. The IMG, which Hansen and Dowson had set up to attack the SLL, now turns around and attacks the SWP and the LSA, inspiring the walkout of the RMG.

At the same time, Dowson himself walks out of the LSA after 30 years, well on his road to becoming a trusted henchman of

What is even more telling is that Dowson walks out of the LSA a rabid Canadian nationalist. This is itself a reflection of the American nationalism of Cannon and the SWP

The lessons of this history are critical for our movement as we seek to construct the revolutionary leadership in the working class. The work and the perspectives of the International Committee have always been firmly rooted on a principled, international basis. This is shown in the development of the relation between the movement in the US and Canada.

Last year, the American Trotskyist movement, the Workers League, held a camp in Canada. This camp, attended by representatives of the IC, was a fundamental step forward for our movement. Attended by 350 workers and youth, this camp and the political and theoretical struggle held at it, enabled the Workers League to publish the first twice-weekly Trotskyist newspaper in America and, at the same time, take a giant step forward in building the Young Socialists.

The knowledge gained by the fight of the American comrades in the construction of the movement has been critical to the development of the work in Canada. Only through this collaboration, has the Canadian Workers League been able to produce Labor Press, in both French and English, and make it in one year a newspaper with a wider circulation in the working class than the Pabloites' Labor Challenge. We were able to do this fighting to unite French, English, and immigrant workers as opposed to the Pabloites, who at every point adapted to the nationalists and middle class radicals throughout Canada.

These are the results of a principled relationship based on international perspectives. We are confident that, at the summer camp being held this year, the Workers League will take a big step forward in the construction of a revolutionary movement in Canada.

The recent split of Ross Dowson from the League for Socialist Action marks a critical point in the disintegration of the Pabloite movement in Canada.

Dowson's split follows the departure in October, 1973, of 70 members of the LSA who, with some other elements, set up the Revolutionary Marxist Group, which claims allegiance to the Mandel faction of the Unified Secretariat.

The RMG claims to attack the LSA from the left. It is made up largely of people who came out of the middle class protest movements in the late 1960s. Although these people attack the LSA's adaptation to the Lewis bureaucracy in the NDP and use "revolutionary" phrases and slogans, the aim of these radicals is to liquidate even the semblance of an independent revolutionary organization into the protest move-

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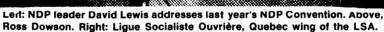
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# The Evolution of Ross Dowson by Frank Martin







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From all of this, one thing must be answered: How can a man who spent 30 years in a leading position in a movement claiming to be Trotskyist end up in such a right-wing position?

Dowson feels no need to explain his evolution. He says his split was caused by his differences with the LSA over the nationalist and NDP questions.

Neither has the LSA made any assessment of his leaving, because this would involve an assessment of its own history, something which the LSA fears most of all. It would reveal that the present disintegration of the LSA is the result of its own unprincipled break with Trotskyism.

In order to draw the lessons from Dowson's evolution, it is necessary to go back to the origins of the Trotskyist movement in North America.

The founding of the Trotskyist movement on this continent was the result of the activity of two men-James Cannon, a leader of the American Communist Party, and Maurice Spector, chairman of the Canadian Communist Party and editor of its newspaper.

From the outset, the Canadian and American movements have had the closest relationship. This was for objective reasons, reflecting the close ties between the working classes of the two countries.

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What was being posed here was a revision of every principle that Trotsky had ever fought for, and the very liquidation of the Fourth International. The SWP shared responsibility in this development because it had, in the period following World War Two, turned away from international questions and left the movement in control

of a group of intellectuals, led by Pablo and Ernest Mandel, who had little day to day experience in the building of a working class party. Yet, when faced with Pablo's attempt to

force sections of the Fourth International to actually carry out his theories and liquidate their work, the SWP decided to make a break. It issued an "Open Letter" in which it denounced Pablo's attack on the need for a party and called on all sections to break with his theories and return to the road of Trotskyism. This led to the founding of the International Committee of the Fourth International in 1953.

This break with Pablo was fundamental. It assured the continuity of the movement against an attempt to disrupt and disorientate its work. Yet many of the sections of the Fourth International sided with Pablo. It was not sufficient simply to denounce Pabloism. It was necessary to go to the roots of Pablo's revisionism, for the work of the movement to proceed

The first reaction of the Canadian move ment to the SWP's "Open Letter" was a resolution on November 29, 1953 denouncing it and claiming allegiance to Pablo's Fourth International. This may seem surprising in light of the close connections between the Canadian and American groups.

Dowson, who had joined the movement in the mid-1940s and by that time was its national secretary, later wrote Farrell Dobbs of the SWP on December 2, 1953: "Your 'Open Letter' was like a bolt from the blue. Our connections have always been very poor with the International and the various sections.

"Our relations with Pablo have been most fraternal—they have amounted to our sending the odd report, their making some general favorable comment, and our sending them whatever help we could scrape together. We had no complaints and since we have had poor connections with the sections were totally unaware that anyone else had any."

There is only one problem with this

explanation-why, if the "Open Letter" was such a surprise and their connections with Pablo so distant, didn't they wait to find out more before denouncing the "Open Letter?'

The truth of the matter is that the Canadian group hád developed theories very similar to Pablo's. This came out particularly in the group's work, in the CCF (predecessor to the NDP)

In 1951, in an internal bulletin, Dowson wrote: "It is no longer sufficient for our party to have merely a CCF orientation, the fundamental orientation of the party since 1946. The question of entry—the dissolution of the independent party and the integration of its forces knit together as a fraction in the CCF-stands posed before

"For us, this matter is settled on the basis of: 1. the present weaknesses and isolation of the independent party, 2. recognition that the course of the development of the masses is through the CCF."

This is in no way different from Pablo's call to liquidate the Trotskyist parties into the Stalinist movement.

In the middle of February, 1954, Murray Weiss, as the spokesman of the SWP, held a series of meetings in Toronto with the Toronto branch and the leading members. In reporting back to Farrell Dobbs, Weiss wrote on February 18, 1954: "The section is now right in the middle of the crisis. A national Pabloite faction has developed."

Weiss reports that the Pabloites had won close to half the Toronto branch. The majority, led by Dowson, had come out in favor of the "Open Letter," but had no idea how to fight the Pabloites. They even asked Weiss whether or not to send Pablo money.

Weiss completes his assessment of the situation by saying: "I am convinced that Pabloism, that is, real Pabloism, has taken a deep hold in the whole organization up here. They don't fully realize it.

"They think they are all united in the work in the CCF. And they are, but on a Pabloite line, I'm afraid. They have become infected with this terrible disease

of thinking that everything can be solved with fancy endless maneuvers in the CCF, with 'deep' entry conceptions.

"In my opinion, the Canadians will not get out of the woods fundamentally until they begin to publish a Marxist periodical of some kind and begin the fight for Trotskyism in Canada. Ross told me he had been thinking along these lines.

"All their good work in the CCF could be utterly wasted and turn into the opposite of what was intended without a drastic reorientation in the direction of building a Trotskyist cadre."

What Weiss makes clear is "the whole organization" including Dowson and the pro-SWP faction had gone over to Pabloism, to "real Pabloism," as Weiss puts it, that is to the liquidationist perspective of Pabloism

What Weiss proposes is a fundamental rearming of the movement, a turn to the theoretical training of a cadre.

LIGUSTE SOCIALISTE SOCIALISTE SOUVRIERE OUVRIERE Weiss's assessment of the situation is absolutely correct. As long as this theoretical training of the movement, the probing of Pabloism to its roots, was not carried out, the Canadian organization's split with Pabloism would only remain superficial, more a result of their loyalty to the SWP than anything else.

#### 1963: REUNIFICATION WITH THE **PABLOITES**

The SWP, as part of the International Committee, continued to carry on a serious political and theoretical fight against Pabloism right through 1954. Then, without any further assessment, it dropped the fight in its press and in its movement. It claimed that the question had been resolved, that it had no further need to discuss it. This signalled a turn away by the SWP from its responsibilities in the international movement, back to a national perspective. Within three years, Cannon was writing Leslie Goonewardene of the Cevlonese LSSP sounding out the possibility of a reunification with the Pab-

What Weiss had posed to Dobbs in his letter in relation to the theoretical rearming of the movement was equally applicable to the SWP. The lessons of the struggle against Pabloism had to be assimilated and the practice of the party changed in order for the work of the movement to proceed.

This was not done. By dropping this work, the SWP laid the basis for a return to the Pabloites.

The effects this had on the relations between the American and the Canadian movement were important. Since 1928, the relations between the Canadian and American movements had been based on a principled international perspective. As the SWP turned away from international perspectives and responsibilities, it sought to use the Canadian movement as a tool in its road back to the Pabloites.

The SWP turned against the British Socialist Labour League (now the Workers Revolutionary Party), which had been the SWP's closest collaborators in the 1953 split with the Pabloites.

The SLL insisted on a full discussion between the International Committee and the Pabloites of all the differences raised since 1953 before any reunification took place. The SWP refused to confront these issues and set out to poison the atmosphere against the SLL through factional activity. Joseph Hansen led this work for the SWP

and turned for support to the Canadian movement and Ross Dowson, in particular. Gerry Healy, national secretary of the SLL, writing in 1962, refers to Dowson's activities while on a trip to England: "Unfortunately, the activity of the Pabloites has been to some extent successful in provoking a factional atmosphere between ourselves and the majority. A good percentage of the activity of people like Dowson during his visit here was taken up with misrepresenting small factional points which were then relayed to the US in order to sharpen up the differences.

Dowson (since the SWP is not allowed to formally affiliate to international bodies because of reactionary US legislation) led a rump section of the International Committee in a walkout in 1963 and formalized the reunification with the Pabloites.

Dowson and the LSA were suited to this kind of factionalizing activity. Because they had never broken from their Pabloite perspective, they were the most vehement supporters of reunification

There is a sidelight to this period which is important. In 1953, the Vancouver branch

had been the most consistent opponents of the Pabloites. This was largely due to their close relations with the SWP's Seattle branch and their knowledge of the activities of the American Pabloites, the Cochran-Clarke faction.

Yet towards the end of the 1950s, a faction in this branch led by Whitney split from the LSA and virtually liquidated into the CCF. This faction was opposed by Ruth Bullock who supported Dowson and remained inside the party. The Whitney group shows the extent to which none of the lessons of the fight against Pabloism had been assimilated. In 1963, on the basis of reunification, Dowson sought to bring Whitney back into the party, but Whitney refused.

The relations between the LSA and the SWP were transformed. Now, instead of fighting for a political and theoretical development in the Canadian movement, the SWP used it as a weapon against those who opposed its turn away from

Dowson trained whole cadres of his movement in these methods. The most prominent of these was Ernest Tate. Under Hansen's directions, Dowson sent over a crew to England under Tate's leadership. Their aim was to, in any way possible, throw up an organization in opposition to the SLL. This was done in the spirit of the most hysterical, factional, brawler.

Tate manufactured an incident in which he claimed that a steward at an SLL public meeting had been deliberately ordered by the SLL leadership to beat Tate up. In actual fact, Tate had provoked the incident himself and could not offer a scrap of evidence to show that the SLL leadership had ordered him beat up.

Tate used this incident to carry out a slander campaign against the SLL. appealing and using the bourgeois press who were more than ready to use anything they could find against the revolutionary

With these methods, Dowson, Tate, and Co. set up the International Marxist Group. a group of middle class adventurers and renegades from the Trotskyist movement.

This activity, whose motor force was only the blindest factionalism totally devoid of any principles, has now shown its results. The IMG, which Hansen and Dowson had set up to attack the SLL, now turns around and attacks the SWP and the LSA, inspiring the walkout of the RMG.

At the same time, Dowson himself walks out of the LSA after 30 years, well on his road to becoming a trusted henchman of David Lewis.

What is even more telling is that Dowson walks out of the LSA a rabid Canadian nationalist. This is itself a reflection of the American nationalism of Cannon and the

The lessons of this history are critical for our movement as we seek to construct the revolutionary leadership in the working class. The work and the perspectives of the International Committee have always been firmly rooted on a principled, international basis. This is shown in the development of the relation between the movement in the US and Canada.

Last year, the American Trotskyist movement, the Workers League, held a camp in Canada. This camp, attended by representatives of the IC, was a fundamental step forward for our movement. Attended by 350 workers and youth, this camp and the political and theoretical struggle held at it, enabled the Workers League to publish the first twice-weekly Trotskyis newspaper in America and, at the same time, take a giant step forward in building the Young Socialists.

The knowledge gained by the fight of the American comrades in the construction of the movement has been critical to the development of the work in Canada. Only through this collaboration, has the Canadian Workers League been able to produce Labor Press, in both French and English, and make it in one year a newspaper with a wider circulation in the working class than the Pabloites' Labor Challenge. We were able to do this fighting to unite French. English, and immigrant workers as opposed to the Pabloites, who at every point adapted to the nationalists and middle class radicals throughout Canada.

These are the results of a principled relationship based on international perspectives. We are confident that, at the summer camp being held this year, the Workers League will take a big step forward in the construction of a revolutionary movement in Canada.

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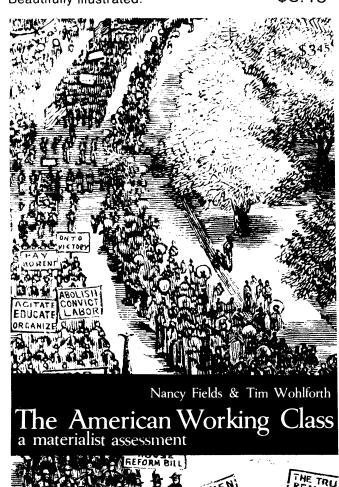
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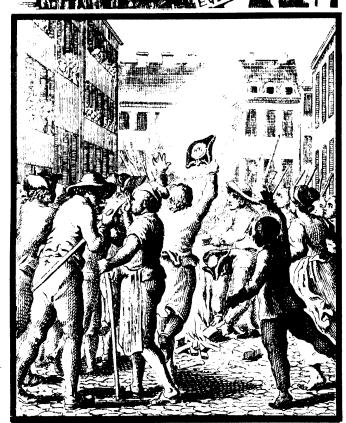
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# TER O EEDUP

BY FRANK DENISON **CLEVELAND—"Its** rough out there at Ford," said Johnny B. "They have ways of squeezing work out of vou and there's nothing you can do about it."

Johnny began working at the huge Cleveland casting complex at Brook Park 21 years ago, just two years after it opened in 1951. Since then, Brook Park employs 10,000 and has become the largest key engine plant for Ford's entire North American operation.

It is at this plant where the most refined methods of speedup and cost-cutting are being developed to squeeze an ever-increasing profit off the backs of

The recent announcement by

RGANIS ATION

"The committeemen are supposed to be available at any time, but it takes hours to get one and then when he comes, he usually takes the side of the company. That's where the company gets the supervision from-union committeemen.

"It's not only the speedup but dust and heat too. I operate a sand mixer and even with safety glasses there's so much sand flying that I have to keep my eyes half-closed.

"Ford is no safe place to work. My eyes were 20-20 when I started working there. Today, I can hardly read a newspaper. The only time they clean it up is when inspectors come.

The heat is unbearable in the engine plant as well as in the foundry. But in the foundry where the engine blocks are poured, there's sand and dust that can cause silicosis.

"There are a lot of things the company doesn't like to talk minute, an agreement was signed. Since then, no one has seen that agreement.

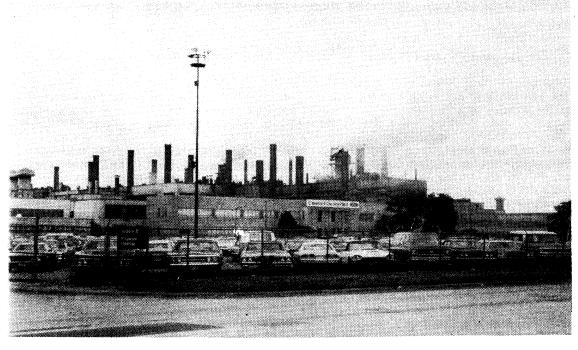
"We need big changes in the master agreement. We are not going to get that unless we get rid of Woodcock and his crew. It's the job of the leadership to unite the locals, not to keep them

"If GM gets away with what they're doing at Lordstown, in three months they'll be doing it at Ford and Chrysler.

"It says in the contract you can refuse to do a job that is hazardous and dangerous. If you're assigned a piece of equipment that is damaged the foremen will tell you to use it anyway.'

Last spring at a meeting of Local 1250, built up resentment exploded when President W.K. Metters was driven out of the meeting by angry workers.

The Stalinists have appeared behind the slogan "Fight the



Ford that they will cut capital spending by \$220 million opens up a new round of savage attacks on auto workers.

"For the last month there's been no overtime. Everyone knows they're going to cut back. You remember last month when a few men got laid off? The word got out that a thousand were going to get laid off. We almost walked out.

"They are always bringing in new men and working them hard. They don't have any benefits until they're in the union. That's 90 days. Most of them don't last that long.

"Speedup is the main problem. They are always speeding up the lines. They will work you just as fast as they can. When a committeeman comes by, they slow it down until he turns his back. Then they speed it up again. They don't let you stand around even a minute. If the line goes down, they find something for you to do.

about," Aaron, another worker, said. "I met a guy who got hit with 440 volts from one of the fans. Most of the equipment is 25 years old and is breaking down.

"The foremen yell at you to put on safety glasses but that doesn't do you any good with the heat and dust the way it is. Two or three weeks ago, a man had a seizure on the line. They had plenty of time to bring oxygen but he died first.

"When the guards came, they didn't even know how to set up the stretcher. The company doesn't care what happens to you, just as long as they can knock out more engines."

There's tremendous bitterness about the union leadership. Several union members said that the UAW officials consciously keep the plants divided through racism, and witch-hunts of militants.

In January, when the local contract was signed, everyone wanted to strike. At the last

company, not the union." They do this in an attempt to derail the powerful rebellion against Leonard Woodcock and his faithful servant, Metters.

In the UAW, the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party (TUALP), is fighting for a national strike to reopen the national contract. TUALP, the industrial arm of the Workers League, is the only leadership that has fought against the attacks of the big corporations and the government.

There must be a 20 percent wage increase with reopeners every time inflation goes up, a shorter work week at 40 hours pay to provide jobs, an end to speedup, recall of all laid off workers, and a national agreement on all grievances.

The TUALP is fighting to build a new leadership around this program against Woodcock, in the fight for an independent party of labor, to throw out the parties of big business.

# Telephone Men Strike Over Cost Of Living

BY JACQUI PETERS
CHICAGO — Over
14,000 workers at Western Electric's Hawthorne Plant in Cicero
went on strike at midnight August 4.

The strikers, members of the International Brother-hood of Electrical Workers, told the Bulletin that the main issue is the cost of living. An older worker said, "We had a cost of living clause in the last contract and they want to cut it in half. That's the primary reason why we're out on strike."

A union official on the picket line said, "They want to pro-rate whatever increase we get with the cost of living. In the past, we got the cost of living increase according to the national increase, plus the wages. To pro-rate it would be a reduction—that's losing money.

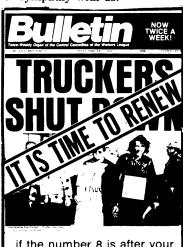
#### **ABSORB**

"They want us to absorb the cost of living for last year like Nixon said on TV."

Western Electric makes telephones and telephone equipment for the Bell Telephone System. They were scheduled to go out with all Bell Telephone workers but the leadership of the Communication Workers of America (CWA) made a last minute settlement.

One Western Electric worker said, "We're kind of shocked they settled. We were supposed to act as a group. With the CWA going to work yesterday—that put a little damper on our effectiveness."

John, a steward who has worked here for ten years, stated that "every communication worker available should be out. I feel the CWA should be in sympathy with us."



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135 West 14 Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10011 There are 80,000 Western Electric workers nationwide out on strike. They belong to the 3 EM Council which consists of 17 locals of the IBEW. Three locals are at the Hawthorne Plant and organize the shop, the clerical, and the craft workers.

#### CLOSED SHOP

A modified union shop was won at Hawthorne in the last contract three years ago. This means that all new employees must join the union after 30 days, but those who were already working here before that contract do not have to join. One of the demands this year is a closed shop.

The workers are getting no strike benefits. A strike captain explained, "The strike fund we had was wiped out by the last strike in New York. At the last delegates conference it was voted out because it would have cost each member \$1.50 per month."

Another major issue is the pension. Under the last contract, retired workers got one percent of the best five years times the years they worked. One picket pointed out, "We have people with 30 years service going out of here with only \$170 pension."

#### DEMANDING

The union is demanding 2 percent of the best five years. The company, however, wants to cut it to one-tenth of one percent.

"The company has over \$7 billion in the pension funds. The interest alone is enough to pay for everyone on pension today.

"The average management person with 30 years service gets \$100,000 pension. It's not a question that they can't afford it"



Dayton trade unionists and youth had a great time at the August 3 "Barbecue Nixon" outing at McCabe Park. The affair raised \$115, thanks to the enthusiastic support of Bulletin subscribers.

# Chrysler Workers Strike St. Louis Truck Plant

BY L. DANIELS
ST.LOUIS — Eighty
percent of United Auto
Workers Local 110 at the
Chrysler Truck Line
here voted to strike last
weekend over 1000 unresolved grievances.

The shut-down will begin in two weeks, in the midst of the powerful strike wave nationally against the auto companies and Woodcock's 1973 contract. Local 110 will be joining workers at the St. Louis Chevrolet plant who went out earlier this summer.

"We got shafted on the last contract—there should have been a clause in there to renegotiate for more money," Lawrence Moore, an inspector, points out. "There has been a big speedup on the truck line—from 38 to 42 an hour. We make four extra trucks but they don't pay us extra."

The men on the line have been subjected to additional harassments. "My friend was an inspector and there was a truck off the track and he was trying to get it back on so the line wouldn't stop. Somebody told him to leave it alone, and there was an argument. The inspector got suspended and the union isn't going to get his job back.

"Everybody is waiting around for somebody to take the initiative. Two years ago a Black coalition organized a walkout. They were having the same kind of problems white workers were having. Some of the leaders were harassed and fired.

"But the company was able to pick on those Black leaders because the walkout was organized around a racial basis, not on a basis of all workers. They try to divide the men.

"Sometimes a young worker would be given a more preferred job that a man with more seniority should have gotten. That makes the older worker resent the younger worker, when it's really the company's fault."

The strike will begin immediately after changeover. The St. Louis plant is the only plant making trucks for Chrysler.



A scene from the "Workers TV" skit in St. Louis.

# Meany Announces AFL-CIO Backing Ford

BY WILL ROEMER CHICAGO—"I don't know if Nixon is conservative, radical, or what...he doesn't even know. Ford hasn't introduced a bill under his name in Congress in 25 years, but he is the only Vice President this country has.

"Ford is very conservative in his attitude but we've lived with conservatives before."

This was George Meany's response to Nixon's admission that the FBI had been ordered to cover up Watergate. These words show the true political loyalty of the AFL-CIO bureaucracy to the Nixon government.

This bootlicking praise of Ford comes only two days after the same George Meany addressed the International Brotherhood of Carpenters National Convention and assailed the Nixon administration for creating the "worst economic mess since the Great Depression."

On Friday, Meany told 2500

cheering delegates, "So what is the logical conclusion as we are confronted by this economic mess...?

"The conclusion is quite simple: Workers and their unions have no other alternative than to seek large wage increases and cost of living escalation protection for the sake of their families and living standards"

Meany vehemently denied that the labor movement wanted to "take over" Congress, and the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting here from August 5 to 6 will endorse Ford.

One may well ask how the leader of the 13.5 million member AFL-CIO, can one day say that Nixon is a scoundrel and the next day welcome in a man known beyond a doubt to be equally rotten. Meany is forced to acknowledge the tremendous wage offensive which has gone forward despite and against the AFL-CIO bureaucracy which did everything in its power to prevent it.

At the most critical point, when Nixon has been stripped bare, and is on his way out, George Meany props up the administration.

### St. Louis Bar-B-Que Sees "Workers TV"

ST. LOUIS—The St. Louis West and Central branches held a spirited barbecue party on August 3, raising \$100 for expenses for the annual summer camp in Canada, August 24.

Saturday afternoon, the day of the barbecue, the St. Louis Young Socialists campaigned in the neighborhoods and recorded the campaign and interviews with workers and youth on video tape.

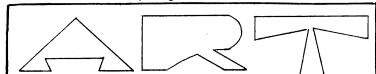
The "Workers TV" later shown at the barbecue party included the interviews, an educational skit on class relationships at the market place, and a fast cutting sequence of the campaign and rallies at the shopping centers and at the Chevrolet plant where auto workers are on strike.

The show was dubbed over with music, including the old song from the International Workers of the World movement, "Pie in the Sky."

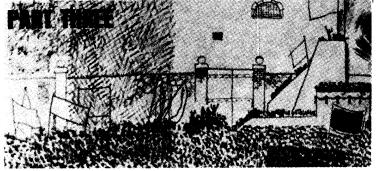
One worker from Scullin Steel said "Scullin Steel—that's the most insane institution in the world. The union leaders do nothing for anybody.

"Scullin workers just joined the United Steel Workers Union as President I.W. Abel was pushing through the three percent wage deal and no strike agreement.

At the Chevrolet plant, a striker said "The Republicans never did anything for the working man and never will. The Democrats and Republicans—kick them all out!"



### **Artists And The Social Revolution**



'Storming the Winter Palace in Petrograd,' 1920.

The last article considered the problems of artists under capitalism. This article discussed the role of artists in the period of social revolution in which we live today.

Art is not vital for man's physical survival, in the way that bread, land and peace are.

Artistic activity cannot and does not grow and develop easily if these very basic needs are threatened. Today the crisis of capitalism does threaten these needs for the majority of people. In 1940 Trotsky wrote:

"The economic prerequisites for the proletarian revolution have already in general achieved the highest point of maturity that can be reached under capitalism. Mankind's productive forces stagnate. Already new inventions and improvements fail to raise the level of material wealth. Cyclical slumps, under the conditions of the social crisis of the whole capitalist system inflict ever heavier deprivations and sufferings upon the masses. Growing unemployment, in its turn, deepens the financial crisis of the state and undermines the unstable monetary systems. Democratic as well as Fascist regimes stagger on from one bankruptcy to another... Without a Socialist revolution, in the next historical period, a catastrophe threatens the whole culture of mankind.'

Today we are living in a period of transition, lasting not centuries but only decades, in which the collapsing capitalist system and way of life has to be consciously transformed to socialism in order for man to progress at all

These are years of class conflict and civil war internationally; years in which social, political and economic problems will tower over artistic problems in importance. But as Trotsky explains, "the historic significance and moral grandeur" of this struggle lies in this, that "it is laying the foundations of a culture which is above classes and which will be the first culture that is truly human."

Under capitalism, the artists of today have a privileged individuality. In the struggle for socialism they will find themselves confused and frustrated; suddenly their talents and energies will be required to serve the needs of the vast majority of people, in the building of a new future.

Some artists will join the Revolutionary Party and help consciously and actively; others will just "travel along" with the historical movement of our time. But no artist will be able to avoid the inevitable reality of the tremendous class conflicts to come.

Whatever stand they will take, artists will find it difficult to be creative in the midst of these sharp and violent conflicts. Artists look at the world, applying their reinds, feelings and artistic impulses and skills to it, in

order to reflect or express it in some way.

Trotsky writes:

"The nightingale of poetry, like that bird of wisdom, the owl, is heard only after the sun is set. The day is a time for action, but at twilight feeling and reason come to take account of what has been accomplished...all through history, mind limps after reality."

Artists "limp" in this way, trying to contemplate on reality as it rushes ahead. In the midst of the reality of civil wars and political struggles, it becomes harder and harder for them to contemplate.

Nevertheless, this does not mean that no artistic creation will appear in the transition years to socialism. It does mean that all the varied forms of creation which do arise will be of a temporary nature, acting only as stepping stones to the real culture which will develop as real classless society develops.

As last week's article pointed out, under capitalism only a few privileged people get a chance to get involved in artistic creativity. Under socialism, all people must have a chance to develop their instincts for art fully and freely.

But this situation lies in the future, and the task of artists in this period of revolution and change, is to help lay foundations. Trotsky writes:

"The new art, which will lay out new landmarks, and which will expand the channel of creative art, can be created only by those who are at one with their epoch... If a line were extended from present art to the socialist art of the future, one would say that we have hardly now passed through the stage of even preparing for its preparation."

Artists of many different kinds can help in this work in many different ways.

The small, intellectually and culturally advanced group of artists which has developed under capitalism can play an important role. From their privileged position, these people can continue and develop the creative tradition of the past.

They are better qualified to express and reflect the revolution artistically, than the workers, who have to expand all their best forces and energies in the political struggle for power.

As the class structures are broken, which allow the fruits of art only to a small "intelligentsia," then the creative energies of these people can be made accessible for the benefit of all the people. These artists, Trotsky writes, must be seen "as the real or potential helpers of the working class in the big work of reconstruction."

Alongside the artists of the old system, new artists will emerge straight from the heart of the working class. The developing struggle will awaken in them a suppressed desire to be creative and to learn and discover.

TO BE CONTINUED

# Elderly Tenants Forced

**lo Move** 

BY SHEILA BREHM
SIMI VALLEY, Calif.—"I thought I was here to stay until I went to a rest home or until I died and then this happened," said Nellie Butler, 74, and one of 58 elderly people living in the Ten Oaks trailer park that was served an eviction notice.

The state of California has served notice that unless the trailer park meets the requirements of the building codes, the park will be closed down.

Charles Koester, 91, told the Bulletin: "An inspector came in here last week and found fault with a lot of things—sewers, the wiring, and so on. That was the start of it. If we have to move out of here we'll have no place to go."



Nellie Butler, 74, one of the elderly residents who faces eviction from the Ten Oaks trailer park in Simi Valley.

The tenants pay only \$50 a month for the lot. All the other lots in the area cost at least \$90. Tenants estimate that it would cost at least \$1000 to disconnect the utilities from the trailers.

Other trailer parks in the area prohibit any trailer that is more than four years old and less than 12 feet wide.

"They wouldn't even let our trailers in these other parks. They're all luxury parks with swimming pools and club rooms and of course you pay for all that. But we don't need a swimming pool at our age. We just want a place to live," said Mrs. Pattison.

The manager of the Ten Oaks told the Bulletin: "The friction is not between the tenants and the owner. It's between the tenants and the state."

Carl Sailor who has owned the trailer park for 13 years said that he cannot afford to make the improvements required by the state. It is estimated that it would cost well over \$20,000.

One tenant said, "He's never raised our rent. We like it here but we think that the state of California should pay for the changes instead of closing it down."

Many of the tenants are widows or widowers who have moved from the city hoping to find a quiet, safe place to live and have put all their savings into a trailer which is now prohibited in most trailer parks

bited in most trailer parks.

Most of the tenants' only income is social security, perhaps only \$180 a month. "The cost of living is out of sight," said Mrs. Pattison. "How can we live if we have to move and pay more rent? I think it's getting worse than the depression. Then, at least you could find work. No use uprooting people for a few pipes. All of a sudden, they're concerned about our safety, but we could die from anything, so why worry now?"

# Oakland Bus Drivers Reject Contract Again

BY TIM NELSON

OAKLAND—In the sixth week of its paralyzing strike against the Alameda-Contra Costa County Transit Company, bus drivers in the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union have firmly rejected the offer of 13¢ an hour and a cut in their cost of living escalator, by a vote of 793 to 727.

But union president Ed Cordeiro lambasted his members, and accused them of "confusion and coercion" at the mass voting meeting last week. This meeting began with a roar of "No" and rejected the offer 500-300.

On Monday and Tuesday, the union leaders forced a re-vote by paper ballot in order to get it accepted. Most of the 1600 workers showed up for the all-day balloting and meetings where \$50 strike benefit checks were distributed.

One worker, John, said to a Bulletin reporter, "I think the first ballot was handled badly. But everybody voted as they wanted to. They got upset because everybody was voting it

down."

He explained that the new contract will not protect drivers against disciplinary measures and firing. "We used to have up to six latenesses in 90 days—the first, no discipline, the second, one day, the third, 4 days, and so on. Now the supervisor can suspend you for as long as he wants."

"I think it stinks," another man added. I'm not staying out this long for a lousy 13¢."

The proposed 3-year contract offers an immediate 13 cent raise to bring wages to \$6.75, well below the \$7.05 Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) operators presently receive, and 204 each year after. The new

contract would also cut the cost of living provision to 13% this year, figured quarterly, none at all next year and 13% the last

Drivers were bitter also that no major gain had been made against AC Transit's policy of split shifts. Men are often forced to work a nine-hour shift over 12 hours with no overtime.



Drivers leave first ratification meeting.

### Lights Out In San Jose

SAN JOSE—Within three months, 8000 street lights throughout San Jose will be turned off.

The plan to cut out 40 percent of the city's lights in the residential areas was approved by the San Jose City Council as part of the city's "money-saving project."

#### SAVE

According to the Public Works Department, turning off the 8000 lights will save the city \$278,000 a year.

Public Works Director A.R. Turturici has stated that he fears an avalanche of angry residents calling his office. But he added that if a major protest is going to

develop, he'd rather have it occur now than later.

A woman who lives in the Gardener Model Cities project development area told the Bulletin: "We've been living in this area for years without lights.

"Finally the Model Cities put some in. Now they're telling us they're going to turn them off. I have to walk a quarter of a mile from the bus stop to my house and I'd like to see what's going on around me.

#### MONEY

"The city council can always give money to the police department or some businessman or give themselves a raise, but we've got to walk around in the dark."

# **FARMWORKERS**

# STRIKE TOMATO FIELDS





BY MARTY MORAN STOCKTON, Calif.—-A powerful strike by more than 500 farmworkers has crippled the tomato harvest here.

The strike began as a spontaneous walkout against wage cutting by unorganized tomato pickers on Monday, July 22. Since then the strikers have joined the United Farm Workers.

The strike was provoked by the growers when they ended the old piece rate payment of 30 cents for a bucket of tomatoes, and demanded that farmworkers pick at least 15 buckets an hour for a wage of \$2.45. At the piece rate, 15 buckets would be worth \$4.50.

Francisco, a young farmworker who spoke to the Bulletin, said "We make triple the others (who work by the hour). We have seven in the family, all my brothers. We can make \$300 or \$400 by the bucket, but if we work by the hour, only \$100. I have a lot of babies who need food.

Jose Calderon, a tomato picker with a family of five, said: "I went on strike nine days ago. At the Western Company they were working for hours. And the ones that were working for thirty cents, the bosses told them to start paying for hours.

"Everything, groceries, and gasoline is too high. Last year they started at twenty cents a bucket and when it was going to finish they went up to thirty

Guadalupe Lopez agreed, "We fight for forty cents a bucket. They will not sign a contract. the farmers are together. All the time they have meetings, then they stomp on us." Hundreds of strikers assemble every morning at 3 to go out to picket the fields. Strikebreakers are being brought in from Mexico, but even so a number of growers admit they will have to stop the harvest and let the tomatoes rot.

More than a hundred deputies and private guards, armed with shotguns, have been mobilized by the growers to attack strikers and prevent workers still in the fields from joining the strike.

Farmworkers are being arrested daily, while the growers and their goons freely assault pickets in front of the police. One grower's son fired at farmworkers who entered a field to persuade the workers to join the strike.

Maria Simentas, a young

farmworker from Tracy, was arrested Tuesday, July 30. "Many people tried to go into the fields. The police were hitting with the long sticks. We are not criminals, but they put us in the cars and put us in handcuffs. How come they took pictures? We aren't criminals, we didn't kill anybody.

drove up when we were striking. and the pickup came and ran the line to kill all those people, and the police say they could not ar-

"The people who were picking

"They want to put new

farmworker, said, "Some farmworkers have twelve or fifteen children. There's too many bills to pay, they need the children to work. But when they pay per hour, they can't.

workers in the field. They get paid eight dollars an hour. When they work overtime they get fourteen dollars an hour. We pay taxes too, but they are on the side of the people who have money.

Guadalupe Lopez said, esterday for nothing. They

The determination of farmworkers to defend their standard of living and win the right to have a union deepens the crisis of the United Farm Workers leadership.

Chavez's brother Manuel, who is leading the Stockton strike, publicly declared last week that no matter what the union did, a general strike of all California agriculture was inevitable next year because inflation was destroying the living standards of farmworkers.

Manual Chavez says more than 85 percent of tomato pickers have joined the strike, but the

"Three days ago the owner rest him.

wanted to come out and the police wouldn't let them. Yesterday a farmer took a rifle and put it on the neck of a worker.

machines in and they want to make less work for the people. We have to win this because if they bring in the machines some people will have to go on welfare. We don't want welfare. They will just use three or two people to pick the tomatoes. If we lose this fight we will lose our

Gustavo Diaz, another young

There are more police than

"Everybody is against us, nothing in our favor. Wherever we move, the highway patrol is over us. They stopped me twice bother us until we quit. But no. one is going to stop me. It is not for me, it is for everybody. I work all my life in the fields. What I don't like is the grower, he says if you don't like it get out. But we are human people."

Farmworkers can only carry grower violence.

The UFWA must lead a fight for the AFL-CIO to establish a labor party to remove the criminal Nixon government that stands behind the growers.



Guadalupe Lopez, center, a striking farmworker from Escalon.

union leaders have not lifted a finger to use this strength to organize the defense of picket

Besides the farmworkers themselves, hundreds of workers could be mobilized from the Stockton AFL-CIO to form workers' defense guards.

Mobilizing the strength of the labor movement independently would mean a final break with the Democratic and Republican politicians, and this above all Chavez refuses to do.

Instead, he has called on the Immigration Service, Nixon's own Border Patrol thugs, to round up illegal aliens among the strikebreakers and deport them back to Mexico.

But there is no doubt on which side the federal government stands. Last week, for the first time, the Justice Department in Washington sent two agents into the fields.

The two agents, Edward Howden and Fred Gray, were sent to Stockton to investigate complaints by San Joaquin County Sheriff Michael Canlis that strikers were violating the civil rights of his deputy sheriffs!

forward their strike offensive by demanding that the UFWA immediately organize physical defense of all picket lines against

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Hundreds of deputies and armed guards have been hired by the tomato growers to terrorize the workers.

La labor de está columna es la con strucion de un nuevo liderato en la clase obrera. Es por ello que nesecitamos el apoyo de todos los obreros hispanos en desarrollar esta columna. Favor de dirijir su correspondencia a: Lucia Rivera, c/o Labor Publications, 135 West 14th St., New York, N.Y. 10011

·lucia rivera

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Terry Delgado con la juventud de Bushwick en Junior High 245.

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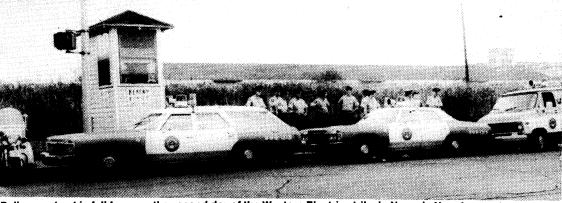
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PRIMERA EDICION EN ESPAÑOL

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## lucha obrera

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