

RESISTANCE

VOL 9, # 5
JULY 1978

25¢



POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE FOR PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION M-L

Box 513, Triboro Sta / N Y , N Y 10035

Proposition 13 : Good for Big Business

But What About the Property-less?

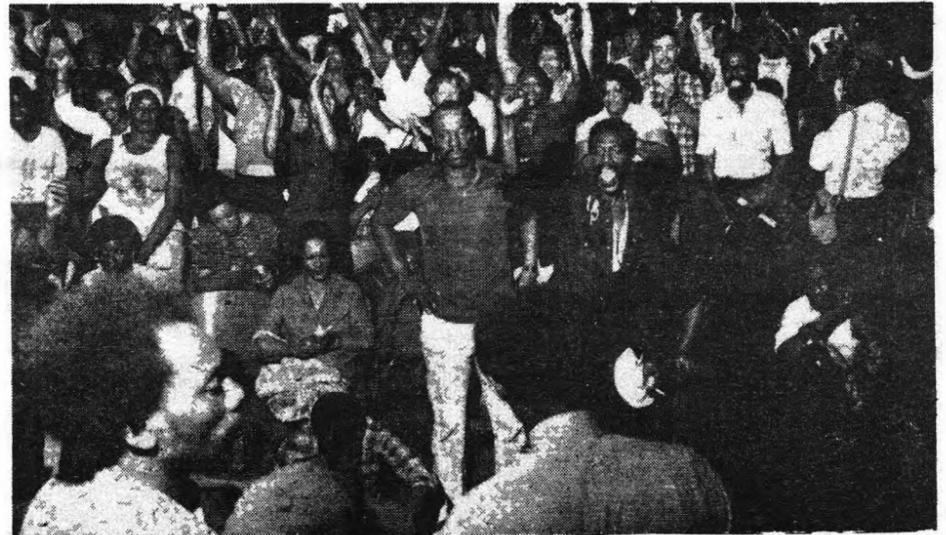
The approval of Proposition 13 in California on June 6th has leashed a new wave of attacks against working class and oppressed nationality people in the U S. Proposition 13 is an amendment to the California State constitution which slashes property taxes by 57% and puts a ceiling on future increases. Those who own businesses, corporations, factories, restaurants, utilities, farms, apartment buildings, houses, etc. will save 57% of the money that they would have paid in property taxes to the state government. The total amount of savings all together has been estimated at \$7 billion. This will in turn substantially slash local government revenues and consequently the level of government spending on a number of essential services. What does this mean for the working class and oppressed masses in this country? First, let's examine the context in which Proposition 13 was proposed and approved.

WHY THE TAX REVOLT?

Everyone knows how income tax laws work in the U S. We all know that although taxes are supposed to be in proportion to income, the laws are made in such a way as to allow big loopholes for the rich to escape taxes. It is the big multimillion dollar corporations, big landlords, bank owners, etc., that pay the lowest taxes. And it is the poor who pay the highest taxes. So there is a genuine anti-tax

sentiment among the masses. We all know also that there is a general mass discontent with the way in which the government spends tax money on war preparations, the space programs and with all the corruption and bribery that goes on in government circles.

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NATIONAL OPPRESSION BREEDS RESISTANCE. OUTRAGED AFRO-AMERICANS DEMAND JUSTICE FOR THE MURDER OF CROWN HEIGHTS RESIDENT ARTHUR MILLER

On Party Building

UNITY COMMITTEE:

Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil, See no No Evil.

When in January of this year, we made a call for all genuine Marxist-Leninists in this country to take up the struggle against the sham unity call of the CP-ML, we were very aware that this was the signal for the consolidation of right opportunism in the U S Communist movement. The participation of ATM and IWK with the CP-ML in the Committee to Unite Marxist-Leninists reaffirms this view.

Some honest forces in the anti-revisionist communist movement may ask us: Why does LPR-ML oppose unity? Isn't it correct for those 3 forces to seek unity?

The old popular saying that without unity there is no strength has never been truer than today for our movement. We support unity. But not in the abstract world. We struggle for unity based on principles, in the interests of the proletarian revolution. Unprincipled unity, based on class collaboration, can only help to set back rather than advance our struggle. Therefore, we oppose it. And we oppose all attempts to make out of unity a magic clincher used in the face of war, fascist attacks, popular upsurges, etc. in order to avoid our tasks.

UNPRINCIPLED UNITY

We say that the Unity Committee of the CP-ML is unprincipled because the organizations in the Committee did not attempt to solve their contradictions in open and above board ideological struggle, through criticism and self-criticism and repudiation of incorrect lines. Instead of principled unity forged in the crucible of class struggle and in front of other communist, and advanced forces they opt for closet agreement, for patting each others backs, for covering for each other's opportunism. As good representatives of right opportunism they forged an all-unity-no struggle alliance which together with their sec-

tarialism toward the rest of the communist movement, guarantees the strengthening of the CP-ML. This will mean, unfortunately for the U S. multinational working class, the consolidation of class collaboration and reformism all along the line.

Despite their claiming to be united based on Marxism-Leninism Mao Tse Tung Thought, their lack of principles shows at every step. Take for example ATM's explanation (???) of their participation in the Committee.

"We have a common basis for unity in our support for the Theory of Three Worlds and the Communist Party of China, our upholding the unity of the proletariat and oppressed nationalities, our upholding the right of self-determination for oppressed nations, our view on the need for a Leninist vanguard party, and other important questions. With principled and above board struggle, we are confident that a single, vanguard party will emerge from this trend." Revolutionary Cause, Vol. , No 5, pg 2

This statement, when analyzed in the light of ATM's line in their "Fan the Flames" pamphlet (in which they launch a series of attacks on the opportunism of the CPML on the Chicano question, as well as on many other questions), and the CPML's article on the Chicano question (in which they in turn attack ATM and their position) is really a joke. This is even more so when confronting this statement with ATM and the CPML's practice in the national movements. But ATM would have everybody forget about the CPML's and their own right opportunist line and practice by saying

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JAIL KILLER COPS!

The brutal murder of Arthur Miller, an Afro-American businessman in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, New York, by a mob of more than 15 policemen has brought the questions of national oppression and police brutality to the fore once again in this mainly Afro-American neighborhood. More than 2,000 angry residents marched to City Hall the day after the lynching, demanding the suspensions of the policemen involved in the murder and the creation of an all-civil board to investigate this crime. The demonstration led by Afro-Americans, local politicians, clergymen and local poverty pimps met with Mayor Koch and Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold and presented the above demands to them. Mayor Koch with the utmost hypocrisy declared that "this was not a racial incident. It is a senseless death, but it was not a racial incident. This is a question as to whether or not unreasonable force was used, irrespective of who was involved." And later on, he added "I do not believe the Police Department is a Nazi-like organization. If there are people who acted in an illegal way, they will be punished." We know better, Mayor Koch. This was, in fact, a racial incident, Miller was lynched because he was a blackman, the police is definitely a "Nazi-like" organization and nobody (meaning any police officer) will be punished for killing a black man in this country.

The fact that the dead person was a businessman with many connections with local politicians, even with the police department has made the press as well as the City Officials give importance to the matter. In fact, Miller was part of the civilian force which helped in the task of keeping the neighborhood cool during the last year's blackout as well in other occasions. This explains why all the headlines and the politicians' promises. It

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WOMEN HOLD UP HALF THE SKY



TAKE UP THE WOMAN QUESTION EVERYDAY, EVERYWHERE

In the last few months, we have been hearing news which tell us that women are making great strides and advancements in the work field. They tell us that women indeed are given equal employment opportunities, that they are getting equal pay for equal work, etc., etc. This is an attempt to hoodwink us. The newspapers go as far as to say that the trouble women are encountering in the workplace comes from their male co-workers, not from the companies and the bosses.

Recently, the *New York Times* printed an article, *A BACKLASH IN THE WORKPLACE*, (N.Y. Times, June 11, 1978) which deals with the topic of women in the workplace and some of the cases of arbitration and grievances arising from some situations at work.

The article deals with the problems encountered by women workers at jobs previously held only by men which have more recently been opened to women. The N.Y. Times stresses those problems that arise in the relations between men and women in the workplace and blames those problems on the working men rather than on the real causes. They say:

"Companies and their executives have found themselves caught in the middle, between coworker disputes and the requirements of Title VII. Managers say the law focuses on hiring and promotion policies, casting companies as villains when most of the difficulties seem to come from other employees" (p. F3)

The companies, on the other hand, appear benevolent, innocent of any crime, having nothing to do with the harassment of women, etc. Of course, this is to be expected. The bourgeoisie is not going to blame itself for the problems it causes.

Instead they try to cover up their oppression and discrimination of women by claiming that the only roadblock remaining for women's equality is the men who resent women workers and don't want to accept their new positions in the workplace.

It's true that there exist a series of backward ideas within our class. This is understandably so, as the dominant ideology in this society is bourgeois ideology. These erroneous ideas include negative attitudes towards women. It's common to hear our fellow workers say that a woman's place is in the home, not in the factory, that women are not the equal of men, that they are inferior, that women are taking away their jobs, etc. These ideas are particularly entrenched in the more backward sector of the class.

But these ideas are not the cause of the problem. They have been used by the bourgeoisie to justify their oppression of women and they are being used now to keep working men and women divided. The real cause of the problem is the capitalist system of which the oppression of women is part and parcel.

These backward ideas are only a reflection of that oppression. They must be fought at all turns, however, and we must not only struggle to rid ourselves of them but also struggle with our co-workers to change them. Since our enemy is capitalism, we should look at this struggle from the standpoint of contradictions among the people. As such, we seek unity with our fellow workers and struggle for the unity of our class using the method of e-

ducation and persuasion. This unity is forged by actively fighting and supporting the democratic rights of women in the concrete conditions of our shop, workplaces, communities, schools.

THE ROLE OF LABOR BUREAUCRATS

In the *New York Times* article, a number of arbitration cases and grievances are cited. These point out once again the role played by labor bureaucrats. Labor bureaucrats portray themselves as genuine representatives of the working class while in reality they are a bribed sector which represents the interests of the capitalists. Using the weapon of deception, they created the illusion that they are representing our interests. But, in fact, their role is to divert our struggle from the real target--the capitalist class. They corrupt our trade unions and bring them down the path of reformism, therefore, serving their masters. The labor bureaucrats have opposed the rights of women and fought against the special needs of women as two of the cases described in the N.Y. Times article make evident. In fact, some of the arbitration cases have had an adverse consequence for women. Examples of these are the case of the shipping clerk position which was given to a woman. She had established that she would not lift packages heavier than 25 pounds. A grievance was filed by the union against her and although she agreed to do whatever the job required, the union demanded that the arbitrator make a ruling--the arbitrator "ordered" the company not to give 'preferential treatment' to women in the future. This establishes a precedent which if we relate it to the recent Bakke decision gives us an idea of what to expect in the work force in regards to affirmative action programs involving women. It denies women's special needs and, therefore, her rights.

Another case was that of a woman janitor changed to a night shift where her duties included the cleaning of the men's bathroom. Men began to use the lavatory when she was cleaning and made all types of sexual advances. She asked that the company put a lock in the bathroom allowing her to be alone when she was cleaning but this was refused. She grieved, but the union leadership refused to pursue the issue. When she sued the union, the court held that the union leadership had the right to choose which cases to grieve.

In both of these cases, the women's rights were violated and trampled on. These cases point out the fact that the union leadership represents the interests of the capitalists--in both they sided with the company and took chauvinist positions, disregarding the needs of the women. They have shown their true colors--their role as paid agents of the bourgeoisie in our ranks. They have shown that they are not for women's rights or for our rights. The need to thoroughly expose these agents of the bourgeoisie in the eyes of our fellow workers becomes more and more important. This must be done in the context of our daily work in the shop and using the concrete manifestations in our shop.

EQUALITY OF WOMEN

The *New York Times* article, as well as others, present the question of the equality of women in purely legalistic terms--they promote the idea that if a law or a constitutional amendment is passed women

have achieved equality and this is pushed daily on people. Our concrete reality, however, shows us that this is not so. The two examples quoted above are just a small sample which clearly shows that women have not gained equality.

When we speak of equality for women, we have to point out that we are not speaking of women in the abstract. We have to deal with this in the concrete and not hold on to a bourgeois concept of equality. No one can deny that there are differences between men and women, differences for which we have to make compensation--the question of lifting heavy weights is an example of this. It's not possible for the average woman to lift heavy weights without injury to herself and this is not what we are talking about when we uphold and fight for the equality of women. We are not merely speaking about declarations by law of the rights of women, nor are we looking at women as a "human abstraction". We realize that there are differences between men and women and that is why we support the keeping and expanding of protective legislation for women have won through long and arduous struggle.

We are struggling for a socialist society in which the physical differences between men and women connected to their role as mothers, as well as the differences on the level of education, etc., carried over from the old capitalist society, are recognized and are taken into consideration in bringing women to social production and to participation at all levels of society. Comrade Lenin addressed this question in his book *ON THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN* and pointed out:

Owing to her work in the house, the woman is still in a difficult position. To effect her complete emancipation and make her the equal of the man it is necessary for housework to be socialised and for women to participate in common productive labour. Then women will occupy the same position as men.

Here we are not of course, speaking of making women the equal of men as far as productivity of labour, the quantity of labour, the length of the working day, labour conditions, etc., are concerned. We mean that the woman should not, unlike the man be oppressed because of her economic position.

On the Emancipation of Women p. 69
(our emphasis, LPR)

JOIN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

This capitalist society, in contrast, uses the differences between men and women to foster disunity in our class. In this time of economic crises, it's in their interests to keep us divided--using women as part of the reserve army of unemployed, substituting higher paid male workers for lower paid female workers, etc.--in order to alleviate the crisis. This is why anything is used as an excuse to keep women, as well as other oppressed, down. The Bakke decision has provided the bourgeoisie with an excellent weapon to keep women and other oppressed from access to jobs, education, etc. and from gaining their democratic rights.

We must not be fooled by the bourgeoisie's false claims that equality has been achieved, or by their attempts to blame male co-workers for the problems that women still face. And although real equality can only be achieved through a socialist revolution, we must struggle to transform ourselves and our fellow workers now, by opposing incorrect ideas and struggling together for the special needs of women.

Our tasks within the shops and in the trade unions are especially important not only in the struggle for women's rights but in the overall struggle against capitalism. We need to expose the labor bureaucrats who serve the capitalists by siding with the company in denying women's rights and blaming co-workers for women's problems, thus taking the heat off the capitalists. We must struggle for the right of women to equally participate in trade unions, and to be able to use them as a weapon of class struggle. In the last analysis, it is on the extent of the participation of women in the struggle in the shops, in the trade unions, in the revolutionary struggle for the emancipation of the whole class that the success of such struggle depends. ★

A Proletarian View on the \$100 Woman Question



League for Proletarian Revolution (M-L)

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JAIL KILLER COPS

is important that we understand this point well. The most important aspect in Miller's death is the fact that he was lynched by the police because he was black. He was another victim of the oppression to which Afro-American people and other oppressed nationalities are subjected in this country. But the response of the press is not to the killing of an Afro-American. They all kept quiet about the death of Clifford Grover (see Resistance) as well as of hundreds of other blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, etc that are subjected daily to harassment and police brutality. The press and the politicians responded to the fact that the person killed this time was a blackman that had consistently stood with them in the life and death struggle between the multinational working class and all the oppressed people on one side and the capitalist ruling class and its lackeys on the other.

This point has been well understood even by some of the Afro-American that like Miller, represent a pro-establishment trend, similar to a comprador bourgeoisie, within the Afro-American national movement. The Amsterdam News which is undoubtedly the organ representing this trend in this area of the country dealt with it at length. This is their description of Miller:

"He worked as a Superintendent of his building on Prospect Place, one of the last luxury apartment buildings in the area to maintain its appearance and stability. He was the founder and organizer of a security system for his block and the three surrounding blocks and in this context he had a license and permit to carry a gun, which he used several times to prevent burglaries within the neighborhood where he lived and worked.

Arthur Miller had always cooperated with and supported the local policemen in the performance of their duty within his community. As a founder and member of the Nostrand Avenue Commerce Association he knew the value of a lively crime-free shopping area." Amsterdam News, Jitu Weusi, June 24, 1978

In the editorial--"The Second Tragedy"--they point the fact that everybody is talking about Miller because of who he was and how the same press and authorities keep silent in the face of the everyday recurrence of crimes like the one perpetrated against Miller. In protesting Miller's death, nonetheless, the Amsterdam News, as well as the clique of politicians and poverty pimps who pass off as the leaders of the masses, have consistently put forward the policy of relying on the city politicians, the court system, etc, to bring "justice" in the Miller case. Many of the Afro-American misleaders that push this line have a different goal in mind from the "justice" they pretend to demand. They are really seeking some concessions from the government--things such as some funds for poverty programs, some positions in the city government, more elected Black politicians, etc.

In the article by Jitu Weusi which we quote above, one of the demands put forward is

"We are requesting that an open, public, official hearing be conducted into the murder of Arthur Miller. This hearing should be open to community members to view and provide testimony. A panel to determine if criminal charges should be filed and who should be indicted for the murder of Arthur Miller should be chosen from a cross-section of Borough residents. Any attempt to investigate the Miller's murder with any closed grand jury that is manipulated and controlled by the police establishment will be condemned by our community." (Amsterdam News, Ibid)

Although at first glance the demand seems very militant and progressive, when opposed to "another closed grand jury that is manipulated and controlled by the police establishment", the fact is that this demand places the angry masses who are willing to fight at the mercy of the city officials. These officials would be the ones who name the panel, who receive the results of the investigation and who implement whatever recommendations are put forward. By making a separation between the 'police establishment' (who are made out to be the enemy) and the City Administration and the courts (who they see as impartial institutions) these misleaders are rendering a great service to our oppressors. The fact is that the city government, as well as the state and federal ones, the courts, the police, the grand juries (closed or open) are all part of the same machinery of the same state apparatus that exists to maintain the oppression of the working class and other oppressed people by the parasites and criminals who rule this country.

Another way in which the same line has surfaced is in the demand for "immediate transfer of all police involved." Magnificent solution! Take the criminals out of one community and put them in another community and the problem is solved. Others, like the Amsterdam News, ask that

"The cops guilty for that cowardly murder ought to be dismissed immediately, without further pay and without the right to appeal.

"Any cop who was on the scene who refuses to cooperate in identifying the murderers ought similarly to be removed from the police force." (Amsterdam News, Editorial, The Tragedy in Brooklyn, p A-4)

This demand for "impartial panels" (in other places they call them Community Review Board), of transferring police, etc, etc are not real solutions. They're only a way in which to allow the capitalists to give the impression that they are imparting "justice." Although in the last analysis it's clear that as long as the capitalist society exists, national oppression and police brutality will also exist, it's also true that some specific demands have to be put forward to deal with cases like the Miller case. We put forward the demand to "Jail Miller's murderers!" in opposition to the "review board" and the suspension or transfer of police. Jailing a policeman does represent a big contradiction for the system as opposed to transferring which doesn't present any jailing a policeman some people will say, means nothing because that will be just a question of having an scapegoat and the system will continue the same. But the fact is that for the system to operate smoothly the police cannot be punished for fulfilling their duties. The harassment, beating and killing of oppres-



and at U.S. Brooklyn square denouncing the murder of Arthur Miller by N.Y. cops. Stop national oppression and police brutality.

sed nationalities, of workers, etc, are part of those police "duties." Therefore, by jailing a policeman the ruling class will be running into problems with a very important part of their repressive state apparatus. At the moment, this demand has not been taken up by the masses in Crown Heights and therefore, it is our immediate task in that struggle to convince people that this demand is more correct than the others. At the same time that we try to do this, we will not oppose demonstrations or other actions which put forward the demands that we have characterized as incorrect. The question is one of educating the masses step by step and based on their own experience.

A concrete example in this struggle helps to illustrate this better. In the middle of last week's demonstrations and confronted with the demands of "an impartial panel" and "no closed doors grand juries" elected officials answered in two ways. Mayor Koch responded by appointing a panel with a majority of Blacks and Puerto Ricans in it (by the way, all prominent pro-establishment folks like Basil Paterson, Herman Badillo). This panel is investigating and should come out with a report and recommendations which Mayor Koch said will be made public. We must pressure that panel to come out with their report and recommendations immediately. We know that their plan is to let time cool-

They definitely plan to protect Miller's assassins but they know that they cannot come out with a cover-up report now that the masses are angry and in the streets. They are now busy determining what concessions are to be made to the misleaders, for example funds for what poverty programs, high salaried positions for whom, etc. Later, they will be able to say Miller committed suicide. In the middle of the street surrounded by 15 police men that were trying to save his life. That's why, at the same time that we explain why these so-called impartial panels are not the correct way to go about fighting police brutality, we have to also demand an immediate report from the panel. This allows us to educate the masses step by step from their own experience.

The other city official answer was Brooklyn DA Eugene Gold who announced that he will make public the report of the minutes of the grand jury investigation of Miller's death. De Millias, head of the Poli-

ce Benevolent Association, attacks Gold's offer saying that this will "kill the Grand Jury system because without secrecy many witnesses will not come forward." We, in fact, don't believe that Gold will keep his promise. From the bourgeois concept of legality, the opening of a Grand Jury's minutes can lead to thousands of requests for the opening of other minutes (using Miller's case as a legal precedent) and in fact, making De Millias's prediction a fact. This is why more than the publication of phoney minutes (which is always an alternative something along the lines of 'expletives deleted') Gold's promise will be thrown in the same garbage can in which most of the politicians' promises always go. In this case we are also urging the prompt release of those minutes and at the same time explaining what the grand jury is all about, why they are not going to release the minutes, etc. Thus, we will be bringing to the masses the consciousness that it is not a question of Gold breaking his promise, but of a system of oppression and exploitation protecting itself.

There are many other lessons that can be drawn by correctly summing up the struggle around Arthur Miller's death. This has to be done in the course of the actual struggle, identifying mistakes at once in order to immediately correct them and avoiding others, making short term and long term plans so that we avoid the right error of tailing the masses by reducing the issue to the death of Arthur Miller, and also to avoid the left error of raising every issue under the sun without linking them concretely to the issue at hand: the death of Arthur Miller and how this death shows the national oppression and police brutality which are characteristic of the capitalist society in which we live.

In so far as the question of national oppression, there are two questions that have to be addressed concretely in order to move the struggle forward. One is the question of multinational unity. The other is the question of the right of the Afro-American nation to self-determination. Immediately after Miller was lynched, many people in the community raised the issue as a mere question of black (the victim) and white (the police). The press immediately had big headlines announcing that at least three black policemen were involved in the beating of Miller. This information gives us the opportunity to point to the police as an institution and not merely to white policemen as one of the targets. By pointing out to other cases of police brutality in which the victims were Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, welfare recipients, students of all nationalities, striking workers of all nationalities, etc., we are able to show that police brutality is not directed only against Blacks but against all oppressed people.

Besides putting Miller's death in the broader spectrum of national oppression and police brutality against all oppressed people, we have to point to other attacks, besides police brutality. The Bakke Decision, Proposition 13, etc, are just a few of them. By pointing to the fact that all these attacks have as their targets the multinational working class as a whole, we stress the need for a response by the multinational working class against these attacks. At the same time, the fact that oppressed nationalities and women are the most affected by those attacks has to be brought to the forefront. Pointing out the similarities that exist in the oppression of all oppressed, we stress the need for unity, pointing to the particularities of that oppression, we stress the need for special demands that correspond to the special oppression of oppressed nationalities, women, etc. Slogans such as "Stop National Oppression", "Equality for all Nations and Nationalities" help to sum-up those questions.

In order to explain the national oppression to which Afro-Americans in the U.S. are subjected we have to deal with the root cause of that oppression. This means dealing with the subjugation and oppression of the Afro-American nation in the Black Belt South. The recognition of the existence of the Afro-American nation, its right to self-determination up and including the right to independence to establish a separate nation-state, is crucial in order to unite all sectors of the U.S. multinational working class. This is why part of the program of struggle in Crown Heights also includes the demand for the right to self-determination of the Afro-American nation.

In Crown Heights, the masses have stood up. The lynching of a neighbor by a mob of more than 15 policemen has brought to the forefront the need to unite and struggle against the oppressor. It is our sacred duty to participate to the fullest extent in these local struggles which are part and parcel of the broader and greater struggle for proletarian revolution, for the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism in the U.S.

★★★

Unity Committee

"In the past our organizations have had many disagreements, some quite sharp. In fact the ATM (ML) characterized the October League (the leading group which formed the CP-ML) as right opportunists. This was a serious error. We believe that the OL did make certain rightist errors. However, these deviations did not warrant declaring CP-ML as right opportunists. We incorrectly placed them in the camp of the enemy, when in fact they were in the camp of the people. Looking back over the 1970's the OL (and now the CP-ML) have held consistently to a Marxist-Leninist general line. They repudiated certain incorrect lines. While certain disagreements remain, we are confident that these questions will be struggled out within the Committee to Unite Marxist Leninists." Revolutionary Cause Vol. 5, pg. 2

This is the traditional backsliding of all opportunists. ATM is pointing to a non-existent self-criticism by the OL, retracting their characterization of OL as right opportunists without mentioning what were the things to which they referred to as right opportunism and claiming that all along these were correct Marxist-Leninist lines and practice. Neither do they mention what were the things for which supposedly the OL criticized itself as being right opportunist. This unprincipled way of making "self-criticism" is very vague of changing lines without clear explanations of why those changes, of covering for the opportunism of others, etc. is what we mean when we speak of opportunism, the unprincipled unity that the Unity Committee is promoting.

Again, some honest forces in the anti-revisionist communist movement might ask us: Why does LPR-ML oppose that an organization change its line?

Comrades, we are not questioning the right of an organization to change its assessment of another organization. If anybody, ATM in this case, is convinced that they have incorrectly characterized other organizations or individuals as opportunists, it is correct and definitely a good communist practice to repudiate that error. But what is incorrect, what is not communist, is to take one label, "right opportunist" and replace it with another, "held consistently to a Marxist-Leninist general line", without making a concrete analysis of the line and practice of the organization in question and showing why it is not opportunist as previously held, but Marxist-Leninist.

THE PARTY IS AND THE PARTY IS NOT

And if this is the way in which they are dealing with the differences they had had up to now, what can we expect in the way of resolving the differences which still remain? Shaky promises that those differences will be resolved in a principled way are not enough. At least not in the light of how past differences were resolved. Whether they will be struggled out, or negotiated as opportunists do, is a matter that is yet to be seen. However, the way in which they dealt with the question of whether or not the CP-ML is the true communist party of the U.S. multinational proletariat gives us a good indication of the kind of ideological struggle we are going to see coming from the Unity Committee. In this respect, ATM and IWK in a joint editorial point out:

"A characteristic of our movement is that while all of these forces have made contributions to the revolution, there is still no single leading center for our movement. Such a center inevitably emerges through the party-building struggle, providing theoretical and practical leadership to the movement through the correctness of its line, its demarcation with opportunism and its ability to give consistent practical leadership to the revolutionary movement.

In this country to date, no one group has been able to demonstrate such a role as the single, leading center. A single unified communist party still has to be forged." Getting Together, Vol. 9, No. 6 pg. 16

It is obvious from this statement that ATM and IWK do not consider the CP-ML the party. But although in the editorial they criticize the CLP, RCP, WVO and MLOC for building "their own parties" based on revisionism, trotskysm and opportunism, they conveniently forget to take a stand on the fact that

the OL also built their own party. And at the same time that ATM and IWK talk about the fact that there is no leading center, the CP-ML celebrates the anniversary of the formation of their party and announce:

"Where would the struggle against capitalism and revisionism in this country be, if it weren't for the CPML?"

Would the forces against imperialism and super-power hegemonism against war, fascism and racial discrimination be at the present level without the CPML's work?

Would the budding revolutionary influence within the labor movement exist?

What would be the state of the Marxist-Leninist press if not for the Party?

The first anniversary is a time to sum up these and other aspects of the Party's work, both strengths and weaknesses." The Call, Vol. 7 No. 23, pg. 2

Beautiful! The "unity trend" wants to have its cake and eat it too. The CP-ML thinks itself the party but yet slavishly unites with ATM and IWK who in turn unite with the CP-ML on the basis that there is no party and it has to be built. They put two big cotton balls in their ears so as not to hear ATM and IWK imply that the CP-ML is NOT the party. While claiming to be the party of the proletariat they spinelessly unite with those who hold that such a party does not exist, and there is no mention on either part of this fundamental difference. With a party like this, how can the proletariat maintain its hegemony and wage proletarian revolution? The CP-ML has no proletarian guts to defend the hegemony of the proletariat and its party and cannot be trusted by the proletariat.

At the same time, ATM and IWK recognize that there is no organization that can be considered the vanguard party of the U.S. multinational proletariat and also spinelessly refuse to take a stand on the CP-ML's self-proclamation that they are the party, and unite with the CP-ML in the guise of building that party. In the last analysis the only real objection that ATM and IWK have for recognizing the CP-ML as the party is that they are not yet, organizationally speaking, that is, in that party. But as soon as they resolve this contradiction by forming the "CP-ML Unified" it is clear that any remaining differences will automatically vanish.



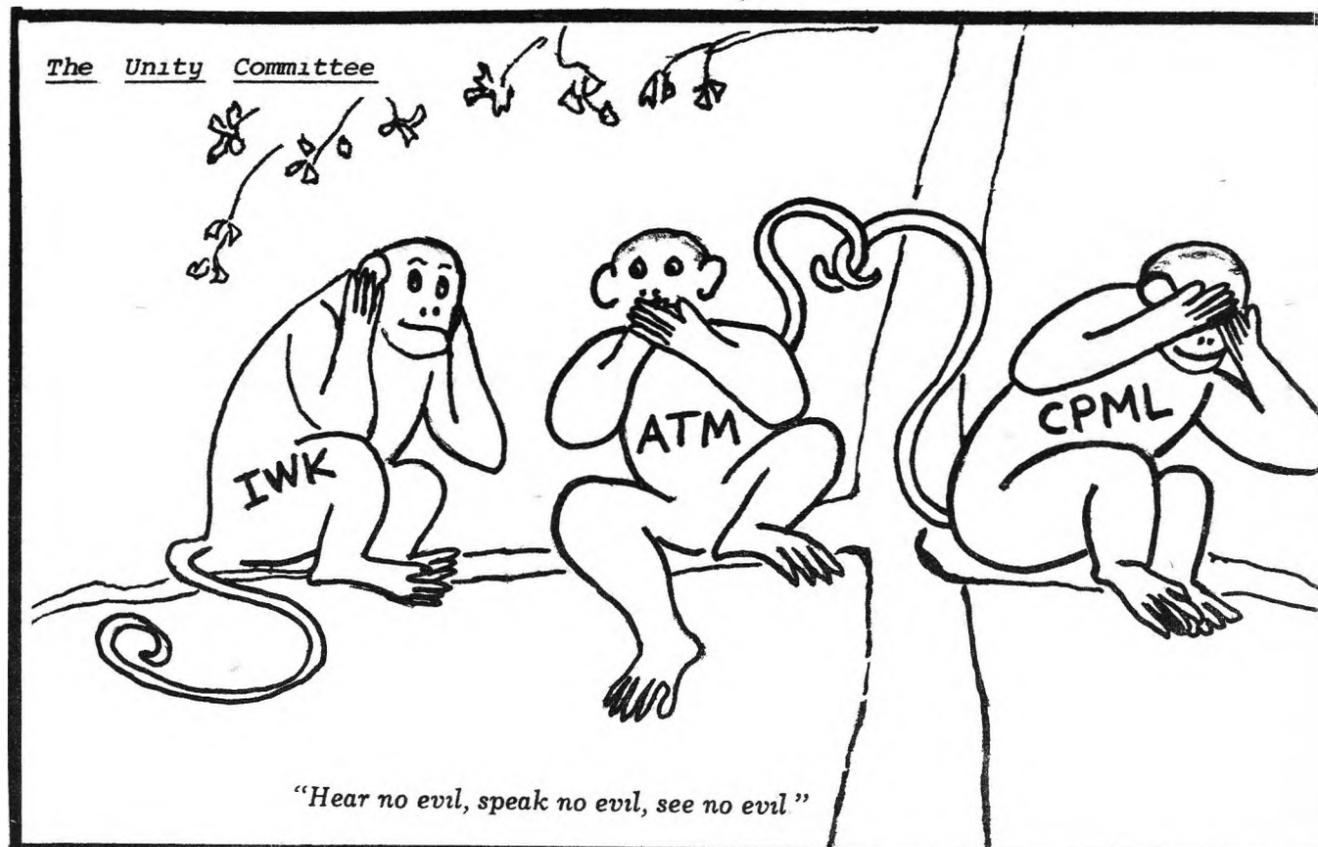
THE BOGEY OF THE WAR

In the history of the Communist movement, different forces have tried to push certain lines or rush in the formation of their parties by using "scare tactics." For example, they have used the question of the rising threat of fascism, and the question of the mass upsurge in order to justify their opportunist practice of building Menshevik parties or of liquidating party building altogether in order to build instead the mass movement.

A concrete example was the Communist League who rushed in their "Communist Labor Party" using the threat of fascism. When they held their first Congress, the leadership of the CLP told its membership that this was their first and last party Congress, because "fascism is coming." They claimed that since fascism was coming it was a security risk to hold any more Party congresses. In this way they liquidated the highest body of authority in a party where the membership as a whole expresses its views and through which democratic centralism is implemented. In many other so-called revolutionary organizations bogeys such as the war and fascism have also been used for similar purposes. In PRRWO, for example, "security" was used to keep members isolated from each other, uninformed even of the line of the organization. Many other organizations in the later period have used the bogey of the "mass upsurge" to liquidate party building and instead build the mass movement. They claim that the mass upsurge requires the building of a broad mass movement and although they give lip service to party building, forget that the party is needed to lead such a mass upsurge and that party building must be linked to the struggle of the masses.

Nowadays the clincher is "the war is coming." Rather than preparing the masses ideologically, by explaining its inevitability, causes, consequences, need to oppose it, etc., and organizationally, by building a strong vanguard Marxist-Leninist Party of the proletariat, they go about in a frenzy screaming "the war is coming" and justifying their opportunism with the danger of war. Thus today the CP-ML, IWK and ATM use the bogey of the war to justify their unprincipled unity, to rush the party without vigorous ideological struggle to establish firm lines of demarcation -- the only way to real unity. The very real danger of war is thus used by these opportunists to justify their get-rich-quick schemes and they go about like "The Three Monkeys", hearing no evil, speaking no evil and hearing no evil about each other, and covering for each other's opportunism.

Some honest comrades may ask us: Isn't it true that there is a danger of war and that this requires that we build the Party? We answer: Yes, the danger of war is real and imminent. And it is precisely this



There is a striking similarity between the Unity Committee of the CPML, ATM and IWK, and the three monkeys of the old fable who hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil! All for the sake of unprincipled peace and a share of the tree of opportunism.

danger that requires that we double our efforts to build the party all the more stronger, Our party must be solidly united on a principled basis so as to be able to face this danger and effectively lead the working class in opposing the war and waging revolution A party pushed into existence without clear lines of demarcation and vigorous ideological struggle, is a party unprepared to face the danger of war

The creation of the Unity Committee represents the strengthening of right opportunism, of the main danger to our movement and it has to be resolutely combatted It requires a thorough exposure of their line on party building as well as their political line in all major questions (international situation, national question, trade unions, woman question, etc)

In fact the task of exposing and defeating this sham unity trend is a very important one for our movement and cannot be postponed Talking about the building of a genuine Marxist-Leninist Communist Party in the U S in the absence of an all out struggle against all forms of opportunism concentrating on the main danger of right opportunism and revisionism is pure idle talk Marxist-Leninists have always opened their way in fierce struggle against all sorts of opportunism and falsehoods and in our country it will not be different A correct party building effort has to be based on the criticism and repudiation of all sham party building mockeries in existence Of them all, the Unity Committee is most dangerous because it appears under the cover of Marxism-Leninism Mao-Tse Tung Thought, of support for the 3 worlds theory and the CPC, of support for the right to self-determination of the Afro-American nation etc It's also more dangerous because it counts with the support of many honest forces the world over, most notably the CPC, who has been misled about the CP-ML and has recognized these false right opportunists as the party of the U S, proletariat This recognition by many forces in the international communist movement has greatly helped the CP-ML to strengthen its influence in our movement And it is an indisputable fact that this has influenced honest comrades who have joined the Unity Committee out of a genuine desire for Marxist-Leninist unity

So comrades, let's carry out our work Let's make the task of exposing and combatting right opportunism and its main proponent a central point in our party building effort Let's in fact practice Marxism and not revisionism, unite and don't split and be open and above board, and don't intrigue and conspire "

If we have shortcomings, we are not afraid to have them pointed out and criticized, because we serve the people. Anyone, no matter who, may point out our shortcomings. If he is right, we will correct them. If what he proposes will benefit the people, we will act upon it "

Since late May, we have been developing a tactical plan for a major rectification campaign within our organization Every aspect of our organization's line, practice, methods of leadership and organization, relations with the masses and with other revolutionaries, style and methods of work, our propaganda and agitation work, methods of study, etc, are being submitted to all-round criticism and self-criticism in all levels of the organization to determine what has to be repudiated and corrected in order to move forward. The process has been very difficult and rather slow. We did not have the experience of carrying out of this kind of task, and although clear on the need for the rectification campaign, we did not know exactly how to go about it

The study of the experience of the Communist Party of China as summed-up by Chairman Mao helps us a lot in this respect. The study of works like Reform Our Study, Oppose Book Worship, Rectify the Party's Style of Work, On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party, Combat Liberalism, Speech at the Chinese Communist Party's National Conference on Propaganda Work, Some Questions Concerning Methods of Leadership, help us in getting a better theoretical grasp of the task ahead. Understanding that we have to "learn from past mistakes to avoid future ones" and that the purpose is "curing the sickness to save the patient", we are on the verge of launching this major rectification campaign

In the August issue of Resistance, we will be printing an indepth analysis of this campaign, not only to allow other comrades to learn from our experience, but also to allow comrades and friends to raise their criticisms of the organization in order that we may benefit from them in our attempt to "get rid of the baggage and start up the machinery"

Support Irish Struggle for Independence

Free All Irish Political Prisoners !



SAN FRANCISCO ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

A HUGE CONTINGENT IN SAN FRANCISCO'S ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE INCLUDED A FLOAT DENOUNCING THE TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN LONG KESH PRISON, IRELAND

This past June 24, 1978, We participated in a demonstration denouncing the torture and maltreatment of Irish Republican prisoners in Northern Ireland--especially of the "men on the blanket"--held in front of the White House in Washington, D C The demonstration called by a number of Irish-American organizations, including the N Y -based newspaper THE IRISH PEOPLE and the National Irish Caucus, laid clear the fact that Carter's human rights campaign is nothing but a farse Carter has refused to deal with the question of the suppression of the Irish people's rights and the repression of the national liberation struggle In fact, it is public knowledge that U S imperialism supplies Britain with such torture instruments as thumbscrews, electric shock batons, etc This information is contained in the Department of Commerce's list of exports

The men on the blanket are republican fighters who have refused to let the British government brand them as criminals, killers, etc and to recognize British rule in Ireland They are holding a protest demanding that they be given the status of what they really are--that of POW's Subsequently, they have refused to wear the prison uniforms and their only cover is a blanket, hence the name These fine sons of Ireland are not only physically maltreated but they are subjected to the most cruel mental torture and humiliation They are ridden with diseases such as skin rashes, pneumonia, bone diseases, emaciation, malnutrition, etc They are held in concentration camps such as the infamous Long Kesh--particularly its H Blocks

British imperialism and its Irish lackeys have embarked on a repression campaign aimed at destroying the Irish Republican Movement, especially the Provos (Provisional Irish Republican Army) However, they will not be successful The Irish people are firmly rallying behind their freedom fighters and are achieving greater and greater unity--an example of which is the Loyalist prisoners who have joined recently the protest of the men on the blanket and are on the blanket themselves This is a step forward in the unity of the Irish people, as previously there had been differences between the loyalists

and the Republicans (The loyalists call for a separate Irish Republic, not unity with S Ireland)

The Provos has initiated a campaign at the international level to bring to the attention of world public opinion the inhuman conditions of the Irish political prisoners and the methods used by British imperialism against them Recently, in the month of May in the city of Dublin an International Public Enquiry was conducted to bring these conditions to light to the peoples' of the world There were representatives from several countries including a French Judge, and lawyers from the Basque Provinces of Spain and Belgium The people attending these hearings pledged to carry out campaign in their countries to publicize those conditions and condemn British imperialism for the atrocities committed against the Irish people Most important was the pledge to gather the support of the people of their countries for the Irish people's struggle for independence and national liberation

In the U S, supporters of the Irish cause have endeavored to gather support of the working and oppressed masses of the U S for the struggle of the Irish people They have begun a nation-wide campaign to inform them about what is going on in Ireland. Earlier this year, in San Francisco, the largest contingent in the St. Patrick's Day Parade was that of the supporters of the Irish cause (see graphic) The June 24th demonstration was part of this campaign. It will culminate with a massive demonstration to be held in October in Washington D C. The LPR-ML supports this demonstration and urges all workers and oppressed people to join in the efforts to make this situation known and in carrying out a successful demonstration in October. We will be printing more information about this in later issues of RESISTANCE

FREE ALL IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS!

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE IRISH PEOPLE!

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ARISE! ARISE! ARISE! ARISE! ARISE! ARISE! ARISE!

IN THE USSR

Soviet Georgians Fight National Oppression

One of the characteristics of a nation is the common cultural life of its people. The existence of a common language as well allows the passing on of the common culture from one generation to the next. It allows the continuity of the common psychological life of the nation. If the children living in a nation stop using the language of their parents, there would be a sharp breakdown in the national culture and an eventual disintegration of the nation. That is because the nation is composed of a common territory, a common economic life, a common language and a common psychological makeup formed through the years in which that community of people have lived together and expressed through a common culture.

Communists uphold the right of self-determination of nations. This includes respecting the democratic right to use the national language in order to preserve the culture of the nation. Although communists believe in the eventual amalgamation of nations, we oppose forcible assimilation by any means such as prohibiting nationals from using their own language. Lenin says that

"Whoever does not recognize and champion the equality of nations and languages, and does not fight against all national oppression or inequality is not a Marxist, he is not even a democrat. That is beyond doubt." (Lenin, Critical Remarks on the National Question, LCW, Vol 19)

And Stalin:

"It may seem strange that we who stand for the future merging of national cultures into one common (both in form and content) culture, with one common language, should at the same time stand for the flowering of national cultures at the present moment, in the period of the dictatorship of the proletariat. But there is nothing strange about it. The national cultures must be allowed to develop and unfold, to reveal all their potentialities, in order to create the conditions for merging them into one common culture with one common language in the period of the victory of socialism all over the world. The flowering of cultures that are national in form and socialist in content under the dictatorship of the proletariat in one country for the purpose of merging them into one common socialist (both in form and content) culture, with one common language, when the proletariat is victorious all over the world and when socialism becomes the way of life--it is just this that constitutes the dialectics of the Leninist presentation of the question of national culture. (Stalin, Political Report of CC to XVI Congress of the CPSU(B))

Under socialism, thus, nations are allowed to strengthen and develop to their fullest. Eventually they also disappear, not forcibly, but as the result of a process of peaceful amalgamation where the best most positive proletarian aspects of each nation survive and come to found a truly international and single proletarian culture.

One of the characteristics of imperialism on the other hand, is the domination of nations with the consequent assimilation and destruction of their culture and language. Imperialism is inseparably linked with a tendency towards the assimilation of oppressed nations. Under capitalism, thus, nations disappear because of the assimilation by large nations of smaller, less powerful or less developed nations. Witness of this is that U.S. imperialism has done in Hawaii where they consistently attacked native cultures, imposed the English language and

finally incorporated it as a state of the union. Also, in Puerto Rico, U.S. imperialism has infiltrated the culture by controlling education, mass media, etc., as well as trying to impose the English language. This has been without success since it has met with the strong resistance of the Puerto Rican people.

In the Soviet Union, the policies of the revisionists are very similar to those of the U.S. imperialists. But as imperialists with a socialist cover, they claim nonsense such as that their imperialist actions are in the interests of the "whole Soviet people." They claim that the Great-Russian culture is the strongest and most developed of all the Soviet Republics and that it has been adopted by the majority of the people as their own culture. They claim that the Great-Russian language is the most advanced language and that if the less advanced peoples in the Soviet Union want to move forward technologically they must adopt the Russian language which alone will allow them to develop and acquire the technological skills required to build socialism and industrialize the country on a wide scale. The revisionists claim that this language has become the language of all the nations and nationalities in the Soviet Union, and that it is necessary for the further development of that society towards communism.

The logic of the social imperialists is clear. "Without a common language, there is no nation, eliminate the language, and the nation is eliminated." So, they have moved to create a series of fallacies around the national question in order to, by imposing the Russian language, eliminate all national differences in the Soviet Union.

Old Russia used to be called a "prison of nations" before the great 1917 October Revolution because of its brutal imperialist oppression of the nations under its rule. After the revolution it became a great socialist defender of the rights of all nations. In fact, the nations within the Soviet Union flourished and developed, rather than disappear, after 1917. The socialist revolution opened the possibility of free development of nations and national minorities in the Soviet Union on the basis of proletarian internationalism, the recognition of national rights of oppressed minorities and the right to self-determination up to and including secession of oppressed nations. In no way did the new socialist regime negate the many national differences that existed among the people in the Soviet Union, but on the contrary, recognized their right to exist and develop so long as they were not in contradiction with the overall interests of the multinational proletariat of the country.

The tragic restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union since the late fifties, has caused a big turn of events there in relation to the status of nations and national rights. The policies of the revisionist, social-fascist clique now in power truly reveal their class nature, and expose the fact that they have once again returned to the dark days of the old tsars. Although their actions in relation to the national question within the Soviet Union are not the only aspect of the restoration of capitalism there, they illustrate this process clearly.

Historically, Russia was the imperialist power that dominated the other oppressed nations under the rule of the old tsars. With the new tsars--the Brezhnev revisionist clique now in power--those nations are again being threatened. The new tsars are attempting to "russify" the whole country by imposing the Russian culture and language in order to eliminate possible sources of conflict. In 1967, in the report to the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR, Brezhnev stated that national differences have been reduced to an insignificant level and a "single Soviet people" has emerged in the Soviet Union. This new phenomenon invented by the revisionists was a theoretical justification for their Russification campaign. According to the revisionists this "single Soviet people" has the character of the Russian people because the different nations and nationalities in the USSR have adopted the language, culture, etc. of the "superior" Russian nation. According to them this calls for the drafting of new constitutions in the Soviet Republics reflecting this "new reality." In fact, this year the revisionists attempted to impose the Russian language on the sneak, by dropping the clause in the old 1937 constitution, drafted under Stalin, that guarantees the official status of the native tongue. The revisionists claim that it is necessary that the "single Soviet people" speak a single Russian language now that national differences have been reduced to an insignificant level according to them. But the facts speak a different story.

The Soviet revisionists have been met with mounting opposition to their hegemonistic plans of Russification and national oppression. This year, events in Georgia, one of the Soviet Republics, proved this. Of the 15 Soviet Republics



Despite the slanderous campaign and persecution by the Soviet revisionists, JOSEPH STALIN, native son of Georgia, is honored by thousands of workers, peasants, students and intellectuals who turn out to visit his statue in Georgia every year on the anniversary of his death on March 5th. LONG LIVE STALIN!

in the USSR only 3 remain whose language have the status of official language. These are Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Of these 3, Georgia was the scene last April of militant demonstrations against the Party's attempts to impose the Russian language. Georgia, the native land of Stalin, has historically fought against the attacks of the Kremlin renegades since Stalin's death. In March 1956 for example, there were a series of demonstrations protesting the slander of Stalin by the new Soviet tsars. At least 100 people were reported killed in these demonstrations, and ever since then, despite prohibitions by the revisionist party leaders, Georgians have continued to honor their native son, and are proud to have the only statue of Stalin that remains in the Soviet Union, which the renegades have not dared to destroy as they have done with all others.

This year, when the new constitutions were to be approved, thousands of Georgians took to the streets protesting against this new attempt to take away their language. They proved their determination and courage, risking their lives and freedom at the hands of the social-fascists in power and forced the revisionists to take back their plan and postpone it at least for several years. The recognition of the Georgian national language was restored in Georgia's constitution. Although no reports were available on actions by the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan, we can safely say that similar actions may have occurred there too, since the social-fascists were forced to stop their imperialist plans and assure the official official status of the native tongue in those republics as well.

Such internal national oppression by the Soviet revisionists is not an isolated phenomenon. It is linked with their practice of national oppression internationally--these social-imperialist renegades speak of "internationalism" and other socialist words only to cover their imperialist deeds. This superpower--Soviet social imperialism--not only oppresses the Georgians, Armenians and other nationals within the boundaries of the USSR, but they also oppress the Angolans, Cubans, Ethiopians and other people around the world, and are out in a desperate race with U.S. imperialism to satisfy their hegemonistic plans for controlling the world. The struggle of the Georgian people is thus the struggle of all oppressed people against the superpowers. We support it wholeheartedly. Their victory is our victory.

Indeed the victory of the people of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan is a very good thing. It proves once again that even under the fascist rule of the Soviet Union, the struggle of the masses is a powerful tool that leads to victories. It is also a good thing because it exposes concretely, in the national policies of the Soviet revisionist clique, their social-imperialist nature and shows one aspect in which capitalism has been restored there. We are confident that one day the victory of the Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijan people will become the victory of all Soviet people, and not only on the cultural front. Led by a new communist party, Soviet workers, peasants, students, revolutionary intellectuals, women and oppressed nationalities, will wage a second victorious socialist revolution, and once again the Soviet Union will become a great defender of oppressed nationalities and nations.

DEATH TO SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM!
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Continued from page 1

Proposition 13

The campaign for Proposition 13 used this feeling of the masses with the purpose of fooling the masses into cutting their own throats for the benefit of the rich. Proposition 13 was pushed among the masses as an "anti-government law" Its author Howard Jarvis, told Time Magazine "We have a new revolution. We are telling the government, 'Screw you!'" People have been deceived into believing that this so-called tax revolt is a question of "people power" against "government power", that by cutting taxes we will be cutting government bureaucracy and corruption. This is nothing but a lie! The campaign was designed to transform anti-tax sentiments into racist attacks against special programs for the poor. It focused on making the working class, oppressed nationalities and women, rather than the real enemy the capitalists as the target of the anger and frustration of tax payers. We want to clearly establish that we are not opposed to relieving the tax burden off the backs of the poor, and that we are opposed to the use of tax money by the government for war preparations, aggressive imperialist ventures throughout the world, etc. And we are opposed to all Proposition 13-type laws which don't reduce but rather intensify these evils.

WHO BENEFITS FROM PROPOSITION 13?

The capitalists proclaim that "capitalism is good for everybody", but yet under capitalism, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Since capitalism is based on the principle of profit making, all its laws and institutions are geared to safeguard and increase profits of the rich at the expense of the poor. Proposition 13 is a good example of this. Although portrayed as a "tax revolt", a "revolution by the people", against the government, etc. Proposition 13 is but another gimmick of the rich to get richer that makes the poor poorer.

Taken by itself, without considering its side effects, Proposition 13 benefits property owners including those who receive no income from their homes. But even so, how will these benefit in comparison to the multimillion corporation owners? What other effects will chip away at those savings? What affects this will have on government services? on the property-less?

The big savings will go to the big monopoly capitalists such as the Standard Oil Company of California who will save \$13.1 million. United Airlines will save \$3 million, Lockheed \$9.5 million, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph \$130.2 million, Southern California Edison Company \$53.8 million, Pacific Gas and Electric Company \$90.6 million and many others. In all of the total \$7 billion projected savings by Proposition 13, the fattest chunk will go to these big businesses and utilities. In comparison, homeowners will save an estimated \$800 a year which will be offset anyway by a resulting increase in state and federal income tax (since property tax deductions will now be less), by additional sales taxes that will be instituted to make up for the loss of state revenue, and by the loss of services in hospitals, schools, day care centers, etc. Thus we have that (1) the richest -- the big business and big property owners -- will save millions of dollars annually, while (2) the homeowners, who make no income out of their homes will make a slight savings that is going to be taken away through other means, and (3) those who rent homes or apartments (the great majority of property-less people in the U.S.) will save nothing plus will be faced with loss of badly needed services, jobs, etc. Definitely Proposition 13 is not a reform to an unequal tax system -- it serves the interests of the ruling (monopoly capitalist) class.

EFFECTS FOR THE WORKING CLASS

From the point of view of the working class, Proposition 13 is disastrous. It will cut government overspending as promised. Salaries of government bureaucrats will remain just as high and corruption will go on as usual.

On the other hand, cuts on services and jobs as a result of Proposition 13 are already being felt. In Los Angeles for example school officials announced the cancelling of summer schools and the discharge of 20,00 teachers, as well as the cancelling of many classes in September. County officials announced the elimination of 37,000 employees, including firemen and hospital workers. Similarly in other cities, employees are being eliminated in schools, hospitals, day cares, fire protection, adult education, athletics and many other programs that will be severely affected or forced to shut down. It is the working class that will suffer by losing these jobs and services, particularly oppressed nationalities and women because these sectors have been historically discriminated against and are the last hired and the first fired and because it is they that need those services badly.



Proposition 13 is a heavy blow against poor and working women, who will be the most affected by the lay-offs among municipal employees, the closing down of summer schools and day cares, and impending cuts in welfare assistance.

In all, some 75,000 employees will be fired state-wide, plus 76,000 federally funded employees more than half of which are CETA trainees. About \$15.2 billion in programs and special services that are federally funded, as well as 125,000 public service jobs will also be lost because of the state's inability to match federal funds. This means that workers and especially oppressed nationalities will lose certain hospital services or will have their local hospital closed down, their sons and daughters will not have summer school to go to, books, equipment and teachers will be cut, working mothers will no longer have day care center services for their children, and so on. Welfare will also be under attack, as this is one of what the state considers "unessentials services".

THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS

Proposition 13 fits in perfectly with the current crisis of imperialism. It is another big step in the attempts of the bourgeoisie to place all the burden of the crisis on the working class and oppressed masses. Its aim is to bail out government and big capitalists in this crisis providing a good excuse to carry out massive layoffs and cutbacks in services, all under the guise of a democratically approved popular vote.

Proposition 13 also represents a dangerously growing trend in the whole of the U.S. The tax revolt line is being pushed in many other states, California is simply the testing ground from where it is spreading out. Already similar laws have been passed in other states restricting property tax increases. In Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio, schools have been closed as the government claims to have no money and the voters rejected to bail the government out with proposed tax increases. Howard Jarvis, co-author of Proposition 13, has announced the formation of a nation-wide anti-tax organization and his intentions of touring the country to campaign for tax reduction laws, he's been invited to at least 40 states already.

Politicians, aware of growing anti-tax feelings, have placed tax reductions and cuts in government spending as #1 items in their list of campaign promises. The surprising victory of Jeffrey Bell, senatorial candidate in the New Jersey Republican primary, attributed to his 30% tax cut campaign promise, is just one example of this.

There is no doubt that the flames of this tax revolt are being fanned by the bourgeoisie nationwide in an attempt to use it as a relief from the crisis of capitalism. It is very easy to close schools, hospitals and day care centers, to lay off thousands of workers, to cut welfare, and many other essential services, and then blame it on the voters who decided this by cutting taxes down. But mounting attacks on the hard won gains of the masses, on their jobs and their standard of living, are not happening because people refuse to pay more taxes, but because capitalism is undergoing a severe and deepening crisis. Capitalists are attempting to place the burden of that crisis on the working class and the oppressed masses by trampling on our rights and blaming it on the tax cuts.

THE RISE OF FASCISM

The bourgeoisie's anti-tax nationwide campaign is part of their strategy to get out of the crisis. It signals the rising threat of fascism. Economically,



THE CAMPAIGN FOR PROPOSITION 13 STIRRED NATIONAL CHAUVINIST SENTIMENTS THAT SIGNAL THE RISING THREAT OF FASCISM.

politically and socially, the most reactionary elements of the monopoly capitalist class are tightening the grip of their power.

Economically, we saw how Proposition 13 is part of the capitalists' strategy for dealing with the crisis. Further, we saw how it is the multimillion monopoly capitalists that benefits most from such laws. Proposition 13 was pictured as a "peoples' revolution" -- "This is our Boston Tea Party", -- an old lady was quoted as saying. But the "power of the people" has not increased with Proposition 13. On the contrary, it is the "power of the people" which earned the gains now being taken away by Proposition 13 that is undermined. And it is the power of the big corporations that is being strengthened with Proposition 13 by further increasing their profits.

Politically, Proposition 13 leads to more centralization of state power, a characteristic feature of fascism. With Proposition 13, local government loses a lot of its autonomy, and decision making power, since it now depends more on federal aid. The loss of local revenues on the part of local government, on the one hand, and the increase of revenues for the federal government (due to less federal income tax deductions from property taxes) on the other, contributed to that centralization. Besides, it allows the federal government to increase even more its defense budget, intensify its war preparations, as well as increase its spending in the space race with the U.S.S.R. and in other imperialist ventures and repressive measures that help bring on fascism. Proposition 13 is not isolated from other campaigns the bourgeoisie is currently waging against the rights of workers, oppressed nationalities and women, such as the Bakke decision, Senate Bill 1437 and others which are all part of the strategy to implement fascism in this country.

Finally, the bourgeoisie's campaign for Proposition 13 and for similar laws is laying the groundwork in building the social base for fascism. As in Germany where fascism rose to power with a popular vote, so in the U.S. today the monopoly capitalists are creating their own support among the masses. The anger and frustration of the masses in the face of big government spending, inflation, and taxes that bleed you dry, are being used to stir up national chauvinist sentiments that blame particularly oppressed nationalities and women for these problems. The intent of the bourgeoisie in this campaign is to show that high taxes are not spent by the government on war preparations, high salaries and bribes for government officials, etc., but on services for the poor. The campaign appeals to the so-called "middle-class", (the better paid workers and petty-bourgeoisie), and plays on crude racist ideas like -- "Why should you pay for Black Chicano, Asian and Puerto Rican loafers who don't want to work?" Although the target of the campaign seems to be the government, the real target are oppressed nationalities and women. By stirring up such chauvinist ideas and racial hatred the monopoly capitalists are able to intensify the contradictions between the middle sectors and the more oppressed sectors of the population, thus setting the scene for fascism, and building the social base they need to give fascism a "popular" image.

STOP PROPOSITION 13

The implications of Proposition 13 are not limited to California, nor to the immediate situation of workers and oppressed people as a whole. Proposition 13 represents a nationwide attempt of the most reactionary sectors of the bourgeoisie to destroy all the hard won gains of the oppressed masses in the U.S. and to implement fascism. It must be stopped. It can be stopped only through a powerful, also nationwide, movement of the masses against tax cut laws at the expense of the poor.

A lopsided tax system which leaves big business off the hook and nails the poor, is part and parcel of the capitalist system. It is no wonder that multimillion corporations pay little or no taxes, while the working class has to put half its earnings into taxes. It is the workers that have to foot the bill for wars, economic crisis, etc. This is so because all the laws and institutions in this system are made by, and in the interests of, the ruling capitalist class. In order to change this situation, the capitalist system of exploitation has to be abolished. Only in a socialist system, where the working class is in power -- a dictatorship of the proletariat over the bourgeoisie -- all laws and institutions serve the interests of the working class and oppressed masses. Only in such a system can we achieve a fair tax system.

However, we can and must fight now against a further intensification of the inequalities of the tax system, against the attacks on our democratic rights, and especially against the very real threat of fascism. A factor contributing to the success of Proposition 13 in California was the absence of any real communist leadership that could expose the lies behind Proposition 13, rally the masses against it, and channel their anti-tax, anti-government sentiments into a progressive mass movement serving the interests of the working class. We cannot afford to let Proposition 13 gain anywhere else in the country. Special measures which must also be opposed are being planned along the lines of Proposition 13 for the Tri-State -- New York, New Jersey, Connecticut area. These plans explain the victory of Jeffrey Bell in New Jersey, as well as that of the many conservative candidates that are riding on the crest of the anti-tax wave.



ON THE CULTURAL FRONT

REVOLUTIONARY SKIT AND SONG

Revolutionary culture is a powerful revolutionary weapon for the broad masses of the people. It prepares the ground ideologically before the revolution comes and is an important, indeed essential, fighting front in the general revolutionary front during the revolution."

CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG

The following skit and song were presented by the National Liberation Struggles Support Committee (NLSSC) at this year's African Liberation Day celebration. The event's guest speakers were representatives of Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)

We are publishing them as an example of good revolutionary art. The contents, the political line, is the primary aspect in determining whether or not any cultural work is revolutionary, is correct. The skit takes a clear stand in support of the Zimbabwean people's struggle for national liberation, exposes the sham "internal settlement", and points to arm struggle as the correct way to achieve liberation. The form used makes the message accessible to the masses—a short dialogue that goes directly to the point, a simple language that is readily understood by the masses.

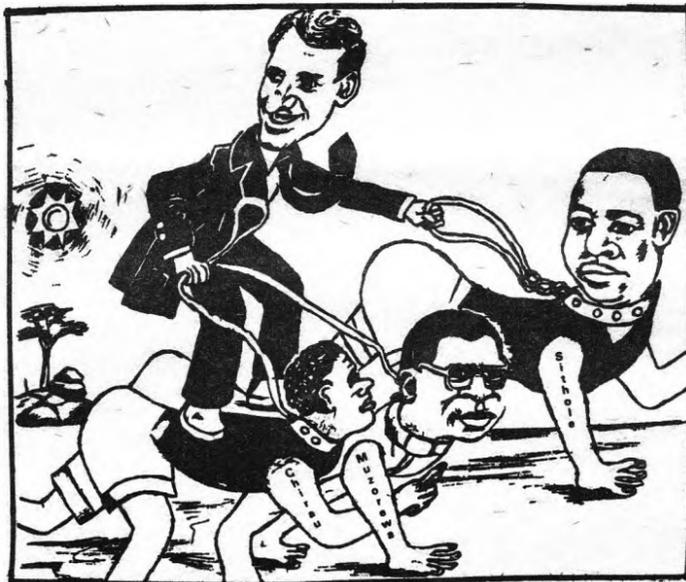
In urging criticisms of the skit and the song, we ask our readers for contribution to the corner ON THE CULTURAL FRONT. Send your poetry, songs, photos, graphics, reviews, etc.

Ian Smith (IS) Allow me to introduce myself. I am Ian Smith, leader of the Rhodesian people. In 1964 I freed our country from the English, who wanted to turn it over to the Blacks and destroy our little piece of paradise. Ever since then, I've been leading Rhodesia along the path of peace and order. I think of myself as a statesman, diplomat.

Africans (coming from the distance) . fascist, racist, dictator, murderer! Hey, Smith, you scab, we've had it! Had it with slavery, poverty, disease! It's time we did away with you, and your colonial masters, too!

IS (to audience) Ah—excuse me while I deal with this "temporary inconvenience". The natives are restless, he, he, he! (to Africans) What can I do for you.

Afcs Ask not what you can do for us, ask what we are going to do to you! (they aim at him)



IS See here now! Let's not get hasty, he, he. Certainly we can devise some peaceable, courteous solution to this problem.

Afcs Sure, like you want us to kiss and make up with a poisonous snake!

IS No, no, no, you've got it all wrong. We are ready to make certain concessions -- for example, how would one of you like to be a senator?

Afcs Ha, ha, this sounds familiar—we've had black senators before!

IS Yes, and some of them are quite competent, once we train them.

Afcs Come on Smith, cut the crap—we know you'll never give up willingly. (They shoot him)

IS (stumbling) . Aah! That hurts. This is getting bad. In the last 12 years I've been wounded in just about every part of my body—I'm in my last legs--

Afcs Take that you swine! (They fire again)

IS (In low voice) Bad show! Guerrillas in control of 2/5 of the country. Economy going to pot. If it wasn't for our airforce those ZANU people would have creamed us months ago! (LOUDER) OKAY! I'll negotiate--this bloody fighting has to stop--let's sit down and work out a settlement.

Afcs Huh! A settlement? (very suspicious) What do you mean?

IS I mean I'll negotiate with your leaders for an end to the fighting. (takes out the three puppets of Bishop Muzorewa, Chirau and Rev. Sithole and starts fondling)

Afcs Leaders! We never saw those guys before! You must be kidding!

IS Now see here. These three puppets—I mean leaders are the responsible representatives of the African masses. Let me introduce them... On the left, Bishop Muzorewa—say a few words, BM

Bishop M Thank you, thank you, Ian for letting me be here today to address the masses, thank you, Sir!

IS In center field, Reverend Sithole—speak reverend

Sithole Good day everyone. Don't worry, when I give the signal, the guerrillas will lay down their weapons. I promise!

Chirau If the other two speak, so must I! Hello, everyone, and may I take this opportunity to salute Mr. Smith, our benefactor, for his work in this matter!

IS Okay, boys, now listen! We'll leave the police, courts and army just as they are, and let's not take away any of the white folds special privileges, cause they might not like that.

Three puppets . Right, right, right, okay!

IS (to Africans) You see, their skin is even the right color.

Afcs Yeah, the right color but the wrong fabric! Those guys are phonies, made out of plastic! Nice try, Smith! But this ruse won't fool anybody, and it won't stop a single one of our bullets from reaching their target! (They keep firing their weapons)

Smith falls

They sing the song over Smith's body.

ZIMBABWE

The land of Zimbabwe is in flames,
The masses are not playing games,
A certain dictator and his trio of traitors,
will soon be branded with shame.

Refrain:

Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
Soon you will see freedom's light,
Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
The masses won't give up their fight

Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau
Swore a sacred and treacherous vow
They promised their loyalty to Rhodesian royalty,
they're lackeys of racism now.

Refrain

The internal settlement ruse,
will be barbecued like a goose,
The wealth and the land—in the people's hands
and for the racist regime the noose
Refrain

Continued from Page 7

PROPOSITION 13

We can and must fight against this campaign and stop its attacks on oppressed nationalities and women. Not to do so is to sit idly by while the bourgeoisie busily builds for fascism before our very eyes. The lack of a truly revolutionary communist party in this country explains in part the incapability of the communist movement in the U.S. to respond effectively, in a well organized and coordinated campaign to attacks such as this. But it should not be an excuse to not respond at all, to not attempt to stop them. We call on all revolutionaries, fellow workers and oppressed people of all nationalities, men and women to build a broad nationwide movement and wage a militant struggle against these attacks.

We must realize that only the revolutionary struggle of the masses can stop this new offensive of the bourgeoisie. We believe that it is the mass actions, demonstrations, rallies, pickets, etc., that can successfully beat back these attacks. Although we know that through the electoral process we will not be able to achieve our goal, it could be utilized as a supplementary means. We should thus be prepared if necessary to organize an active "vote NO" campaign against any Proposition 13-type laws.

We must not allow that the anger and frustration of the masses be coopted and transformed by the ruling class into the social base of a fascist movement against the working class.

DEFEND OUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS!

DOWN WITH ALL PROPOSITION 13-TYPE LAWS!

STOP THE THREAT OF FASCISM! ★



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