

DIRECT ACTION

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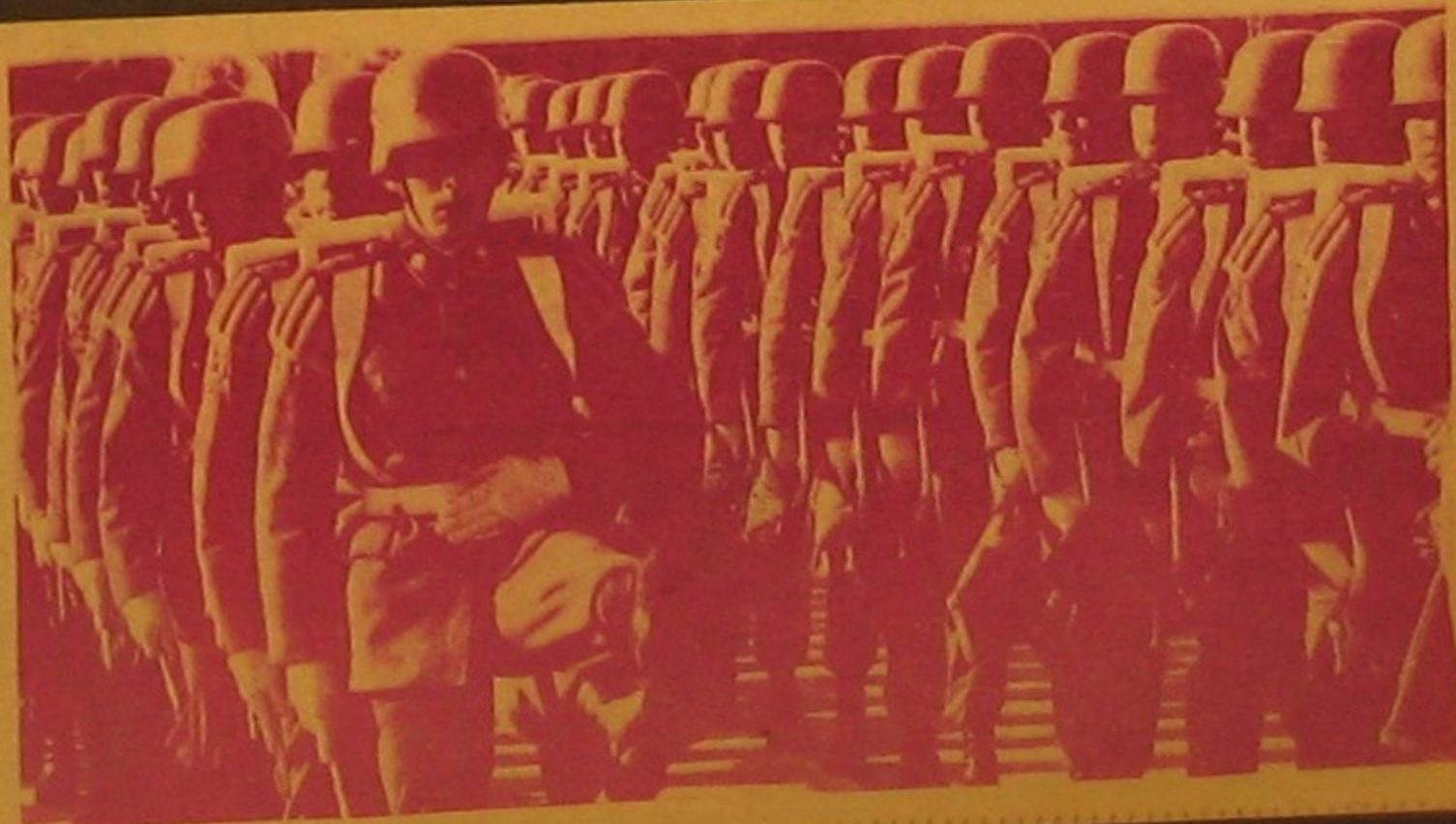
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BEHIND ISRAELI AGRESSION



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**Protest
CHILE
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Chilean Bloodbath Continues

The following is an abridged version of an article appearing in the October 15 issue of Intercontinental Press.

BY GERRY FOLEY

"It pains me", a spokesman of the junta said, "to see everybody getting concerned about corpses that don't exist." (Le Monde, October 4)

"Last week, I slipped through a side door into the Santiago city morgue, flashing my junta pass with all the impartant authority of a high official. One hundred and fifty dead bodies were laid out on the ground floor, awaiting identification by family members. Upstairs, I passed through a swing door and, in a dimly lit corridor lay at least 50 bodies, squeezed one against another, their heads propped up against the wall. They were all naked.

"Most had been shot at close range under the chin. Some had been machine-gunned in the body. Their chests had been split open and sewn together in what presumably had been a pro forma autopsy. They were all young and, judging from the roughness of their hands, all from the working class. A couple of them were girls, distinguished among the massed bodies only by the curves of their breasts." (John Barnes in the October 8 Newsweek).

The daughter of a morgue staff member told Barnes that in the fourteen days following the coup, this one institution had "received and processed" 2796 corpses. The Newsweek correspondent commented:

"No one knows how many have been disposed of elsewhere; a gravedigger told me of reports that helicopters have been gathering bodies at the emergency first-aid centre in central Santiago, then carrying them out to sea to be dumped."

The organisation of the military takeover impressed some journalists: "The coup d'etat, staged with textbook precision, had been plotted for almost 11 months," Jonathan Kandell wrote in the September 30 New York Times, "by a military convinced that the late President's experiment in constitutional Marxism had succeeded in destroying the economic power of the middle class, which is the basis of our national institutions," as one officer deeply involved in the planning put it last week.

If their military operations had been staged with textbook precision, the generals were much less precise in keeping their stories straight.

"Admiral Toribio Merino himself admitted in an interview with the Dutch



Retrieving a corpse

TV station Vara, "the October 1 Der Spiegel reported, "that 3500 civilians were killed." Officially, the junta claimed that only 95 had died in their "textbook" operation. "The lie is so cynical," the Dagens Nyheter correspondent Bobi Sourander wrote, "that it makes you boggle."

Almost three weeks after the military coup, the full extent of the repression was still far from clear. But enough information had leaked out to send shock waves through the world press. Sourander compared Chile to a country under Nazi occupation.

"Myth after myth about the heroic resistance that is supposed to have taken place in the first days is dying out," the Swedish correspondent wrote in the September 30 issue of the prestigious Stockholm daily. "There were reports of full-scale battles between military units in Santiago. Nothing like that happened. A few hundred snipers resisted for a few days in the cities. That was all....

"When the military effectively cleared out the factories by shelling them with heavy weapons and sending helicopters over them, the resistance was sporadic and badly organised.

"It led to brutal retaliatory strikes that were rumored to be on the scale of extermination operations. And in this flood of rumors, it suddenly became uninteresting — after some sources had said that all the workers had been shot by the military — that hundreds of workers in one factory, Qumar Nylon, were arrested and collectively tortured.

"The myths are dying just when Chile's military junta needs them. Its soldiers and officers ran amok for five days in pogroms the like of which has seldom been seen since the heyday of the Nazis."

Whether the military intends to exterminate whole sections of the population will probably not be determined for some time. The population has been atomised by repression and censorship. In particular, the teeming shantytowns on the outskirts of the cities — where, from the bourgeoisie's point of view, the most dangerous and economically expendable elements are concentrated — are isolated from each other and from the rest of the country. In these conditions, the intimidating effect of the junta's savage terror is maximised.

"At the same time all sorts of myths are still believed in Chile, where there is no reliable information about what happened and what is happening," continued Sourander's Dagens Nyheter report. "In Chile, people are still talking about tens of thousands dead, but no one can confirm or refute these rumors. And they need only be interlaced with a few horrifying facts to create a paralyzing terror.

"Dead bodies are being found in working-class areas. A refuse truck carrying a corpse drives by. Fresh bodies are found in large numbers. Fear spreads and generates treachery and cowardice.

"Everyone knows that the terror is continuing, but no one knows what its dimensions are.

"Already the political persecutions have gone down to the lowest levels. Leftists who cut their hair, took off their ties, and went meekly to work two weeks ago are beginning to disappear. Workers who led union actions in the factory and tended their machines with their heads down for a week after the coup are beginning to be arrested. In the slums, a van comes with soldiers. A few names are called and a few men taken away."

The military continues to cordon off advisers in the city of Santiago to conduct "searches" in the sealed-off sections. The October 1 Der Spiegel described the results:

"At night when the curfew has emptied the streets, mop-up squads move in. In the morning, passersby find huge pools of blood on the sidewalks, or corpses covered with newspapers, as for example, on the business street of Huerfano. Slum dwellers fished forty-five bodies out of the Rio Mapocho not far from the Padel airport, and in the centre of Santiago itself several bodies

pled up against a bridge over the Mapocho."

Despite the demagogic promises it continues to make to the workers, the junta has obviously opted for naked terror to "restore discipline" among the work force. On September 25, the CUT (Central Unica de Trabajadores — United Federation of Workers) was outlawed,



Bookburning in Santiago

One of its leaders, former Minister of Labor Jorge Godoy, has been so badly tortured, according to Sourander's September 30 article, that "he has tried to kill himself." The junta also announced September 28 that it had captured Luis Corvalan, the general secretary of the Communist Party, and intended to try him for treason, a capital offence. At the same time, the junta continues to make public accounts of executions of left-wing figures after rapid military trials.

In the October 7 New York Times, Jonathan Kandell reported: "Under the first few weeks of the military Government, a rigid labor discipline has been suspended. Workers — motivated mostly by fear of losing their jobs — have apparently cut absenteeism sharply. And working hours have been increased by resurrecting a half day of work on Saturdays.

"A tour of a dozen factories in recent days appeared to bear out management claims that employees were hard at work, although their enthusiasm may have been partly explained by the suspension of dozens of workers alleged to be leftist extremists."

In the same issue of the Times, Marvin Howe said that the junta's economic policy "has not been spelled out in detail," but that it had "made strong appeals for foreign capital, particularly American capital," and that "initial measures indicate a squeeze on the workers and encouragement to producers."

"The military regime is seeking its advisers in the most reactionary circles," the October 1 Der Spiegel reported, "above all in the Nationalist party. Expropriated landowners have been called into the Ministry of Agriculture; the chairman of the manufacturers association, Soffia, has been called in as an economic adviser in the Foreign Ministry."

Once the Chilean bourgeoisie decided to unleash the generals, it had to accept the consequences at least for the time being. These included handing over economic management to the most retrograde elements and accepting the unforeseeable

costs of brutal, irrational, and corrupt military rule. But some voices in the imperialist centre that aimed and failed the local repressive machine began quickly to express fears that the overthrow kill in Chile might hopelessly undermine the political bases of bourgeois control over the society.

In their determination to impose

the military risked destroying all the links between the bourgeois political system and the workers, thus making it impossible for the capitalists to regain any measure of co-operation from the working class.

The experienced imperialist leaders understand that mere terror cannot long maintain production in a country like Chile, even when there is a high unemployment rate. Furthermore, pure military rule has generally proven quite unstable in countries as developed as Chile. Given limited opportunities for looting and extortion, the ground-level command structure quickly becomes utterly corrupt. And as the top command becomes involved in directly running the economic life of the country, the contradictions in the bourgeoisie tend to become reflected in its own ranks in an acute way. Every conflict of economic interests threatens to turn into a civil war. With the military facing the bitter hatred of the decisive masses of the country, the inevitable faltering of the regime could produce a violent explosion.

"No soldier or Carabinero can venture into certain poor areas on the outskirts of Santiago except in vast army operations," Le Monde reported on October 4. "Many have already been killed."

In the absence of organized resistance by the masses, it was difficult for the ranks of the armed forces to break free from the discipline imposed by their officers. But there is evidence that the unspeakable cruelty and bloodthirstiness of the chiefs has driven an unbridgeable gap between them and the mass of men in uniform.

"Witnesses claim that soldiers shot their officers when they ordered them to execute prisoners," the October 1 Der Spiegel reported.

"Another soldier paid with his life for refusing to carry out such an order. He was shot as he threw away his helmet and rifle in protest. The reason was that one of his comrades guarding a line of people standing at a bread outlet in Santiago's Mapocho district shot a child who was crying."

ON THE PICKET LINE

ACTU Youth Week

BY MAURIE COOPER

October 14-20 was Trade Union Youth Week. Organised through the State branches of the ACTU and the Labor Councils, Youth Week occurs with the regularity and political significance of the Waratah Festival. 1973 was no exception. Intended as something of a public relations exercise both inside and outside the labor movement, its activities this year included visits by trade-union officials to high schools to talk about trade unionism and performances by professional artists at factories and other work sites.

The visits to high schools — organised with the assistance of the NSW Teachers' Federation — are an activity which should be used more effectively in the future. Invariably the first contact a young worker has with the union movement is in the form of a union official wanting to deduct a lump from her or his first pay. It is important that when the first on-the-job contact with the union comes about the worker should be prepared and eager to financially support the appropriate union. Moreover, such visits by unionists could go some way towards counteracting the anti-working-class attitudes of official bourgeois economics and history as taught in high schools.

The official attitude towards Trade Union Youth Week is nowhere more obvious than at the conference of young workers. Held on Wednesday, October 17 at the Trades Hall, the conference was attended by about 60 young workers. Under Labor Council regulations unions affiliated to the ACTU are entitled to send two voting delegates and an unlimited number of observers. The significance with which the union officials view Youth Week was clear — of the 90 or so unions affiliated, only 10 or 11 sent credentialed delegates. Even with such small representation, the union officials showed very clearly the unwillingness to let anyone rock the boat by bringing up unpopular issues such as the right of apprentices to vote. For example, about 15 members of the Electrical Trades Union were present. Spokespersons for the group claimed that as apprentices at the Chillora Workshops they were invited by the ETU to elect their own rank-and-file delegates. They did this, only to arrive at the conference and find that their elected delegates were not the delegates the ETU had credentialed. So while the rank-and-file delegates sat in the hall without a vote one of their "official" delegates, an organiser with the ETU, voted against the extension of the rights of adult workers — right to strike, right to attend union meetings, adult pay at 18, etc — to apprentices. The "delegate" then left the hall, never to be seen again. The other "officially" credentialed delegate did not bother to show up at all.

The conference was unanimous in its rejection of any form of wages control. All delegates made it quite clear that they would not sit by and allow any government to control their wages. The prices referendum, however, did cause some debate. Speakers who argued for a No-No vote — the ETU rank and file and a delegate from a white-collar union — pointed out that the European and US experiences with price control were ineffectual, that there was no guarantee that wages, as the price of labor, could not also be controlled if a referendum was passed and that because Whitlam had indicated his support for Nixon's "wage-price freeze", when the price control side of it was obviously falling, he would use the opportunity to involve a real wage freeze.

City builders' laborers replied next day by deciding to go on strike until the scab labor was withdrawn. A successful orderly occupation by 500 stopped work on the scab site. The occupation sent a delegation to the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority. This delegation was assured work would stop on the site pending the outcome of a meeting of the

price control totally disregarded the past experience of the failure of price control in Europe and the USA and expressed an unwarranted faith in the High Court by suggesting that, with its abysmal record in working class struggles, it would not dare rule that price control should control the price of labor. They also expressed an unsupported faith in the Labor Government's previous industrial measures — their failure to tackle the doctors, refusal to abolish the penal clauses, support for percentage wage increases and a farcical Prices Justification Tribunal. They suggested that Labor wanted to tackle inflation head on and that this couldn't be done by supporting a reactionary constitution at the expense of a more centralised and powerful government.

The conference finished with a lecture from Bob Hawke on the difference between "democratic socialists" and "Marxists". Despite its obvious shallowness, Trade Union Youth Week does have



Jack Munday being arrested

very great potential in organising and orientating working-class youth, but this will only come about when the bureaucratic mishandling and patronising attitudes of Bob Hawke and Co are overcome.

BLF Defends Bans

BY BERNIE MURPHY

The NSW Builders' Labourers Federation has come under concerted attack from the State Government, the Master Builders' Association, and the Federal leadership of the Builders' Labourers' Federation itself.

This campaign has been in the limelight since Thursday October 8 when judge Aird summonsed the union to appear before the Commonwealth Industrial Commission to show cause why the union should not be deregistered for its policy of imposing Green Bans and for its continual breaking of restrictive clauses in its award. On the same day, Bob Pringle, NSW branch president of the BLF and two other builders' laborers were arrested for remaining on a building site in the Rocks area "without reasonable cause." The Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority was at the time using scab labor to beat a Green Ban on the site.

City builders' laborers again occupied the site being "developed" by Silverton Ltd on Wednesday October 24. Police stormed

residents of the Rocks area that evening. Later in the day the authority backed a statement by Silverton Ltd, the company contracting for the scab site, that construction would go ahead. A mass meeting of the union in the Rocks area on Monday morning was told Silverton had backed down from its declared position of continued use of scab labor.

Joe Owens, newly elected secretary of the NSW branch of the BLF, made the point that the whole episode had been staged by Askin and his lap dogs in the Sydney Redevelopment Authority as a test of the new leadership's mettle and as an attempt to provoke a violent reaction from the BLF. Askin is running his election campaign on the platform of getting a mandate to do something about militant unionists. The meeting resolved to hold a demonstration the next day outside Temple Court where judge Aird of the Commonwealth Industrial Commission had called a compulsory conference to discuss industrial

the site arresting over 50 of those present. Included among these were Joe Owens and Jack Munday.

Green Bans at present halt construction to the value of \$3000 million in Sydney. For this reason alone the Master Builders want to dissolve the BLF through deregistration and destroy the rank and file militancy that makes Green Bans possible. Added to this is the profit-diminishing effects of the BLF's tenacious struggle for permanency, better wages and conditions.

The Government, noting the swing against Labor, has opted for an early election. For this purpose Askin is trying to bring in a new law and order campaign with the BLF cast in the role of chief whipping boy. The hopes the Liberals and their co-thinkers are pinning on this worn electoral tactic can be gauged from The Sydney Morning Herald editorial on October 24 which, discussing the elections in the light of the BLF's Green Bans, had the following to say, "conservationists running in blinkers and local residents... have helped spawn a monster which claims for itself a place above the law. The stage has been reached where any project must have the imprimatur of a mob of industrial anarchists."

One hopes the BLF can withstand the attacks of such profit-hungry, vote-hungry circles, despite the lack of support from the rest of the labor movement, union and parliamentary, and despite the perfidious role played by the Federal leadership of the union.

Vic. Govt Workers' Leave Threatened

BY DOUG JORDAN

Over the last few months Victorian State Government workers have been awarded an extra week of annual leave. This was a flow-on from the increase in annual holidays awarded by the Federal Labor Government to its employees. This now means that the majority of State workers receive four weeks annual holidays while those on shift-work receive five weeks.

The Hamer Liberal Government has decided to mount an attack on this increase in holidays. It has done so by threatening to take away the three days half-staff leave. Half-staff leave is the name used to describe the three-days extra holiday granted to State employees over the Christmas or New Year periods. This is a time when such work-load is low staff attendance. It is a system that has been in existence for a long time and represents one of the gains made by State Government workers. Traditionally, it was only awarded to white-collar workers, but last year it was awarded to blue-collar workers.

The moves made by the Hamer Government represent a clear-cut attack on the conditions of all State Government workers. If it is forced through or allowed to pass unchallenged it will mean in effect that only an extra two-days annual holiday would have been gained. It will give the Liberal Government further confidence to whittle away the conditions of State workers. The only reason advanced by the Government was that since an extra week annual leave had been granted half-staff leave was "no longer necessary."

In the next few weeks there is to be a meeting of the unions whose members are affected by the Government's moves. It is vital that they set up a representative committee composed of members of all unions involved. This is a clear-cut case where a real unity can be built between the white and blue collar sections of the work-force. This committee must build meetings, strikers, and any other appropriate actions that will turn back the moves of the Government.

The World Revolution

70,000 March in Support of Lip Workers

BY JON ROTHSCHILD

Despite freezing rain, interference from the Socialist Party mayor of the town, and divisive provocations by the reformist leaders of the major trade union federations, more than 70,000 people turned out on September 29 for the national "march on Besancon" in solidarity with the workers of the Lip watch-factory, who are now in the sixth month of their struggle to preserve their jobs.

The size of the march — and its enthusiasm, political level, and degree of organization — represented not only a victory for the workers but also a defeat for the union bureaucrats, who had done all they could to minimise the importance of the march.

The Lip workers occupied the factory last June, after discovering that the giant Swiss trust Ebauches SA, which had just bought the company from its former owners, planned a massive dismantling of the plant that would have involved laying off a large part of the work force. For two months the workers continued production, sold the watches they made, and paid themselves — in open violation of capitalist law and order.

On August 14, the Government re-occupied the factory by means of a pre-dawn police attack. But the workers fought on, organising solidarity actions throughout France, and continuing production of watches in the "new factory" established in the gymnasium of the local Jean-Zay school. The workers held firm to their two central demands: no layoffs; no dismantlement.

The September 29 march was called by the Lip workers themselves. They intended it as a national mobilisation of the whole working class, as both a material aid to the Lip struggle and an occasion for the workers to discuss their experiences in struggle and draw some conclusions.

In the ninth issue of Lip-Unité, the strike bulletin published by the workers, the tone of the September 29 action was set unambiguously:

"We are proposing that the workers of all factories, public and private, that are faced with problems similar to ours set up stands in the assembly area in Besancon.

"Other stands can be set up dealing with the indirect consequences of the industrial policy against which the march on Besancon has been organised and on the struggles that are going on in those sectors....

"The many stands set up will also allow for a better understanding of the various aspects of our struggle.

"Furthermore, meetings and discussions will be organised in various places on different questions. There will be entertainment, film showings, record playing, and singing."

The Lip workers' plans for the march were opposed from two sides. Right wingers in Besancon threatened to organise a counter-demonstration, posters began appearing around town calling on the population to beware of "invasion by leftist hordes". They were signed: "the silent majority". That source of opposition proved to be insignificant. There was no counter-demonstration and there was no sign that the people of Besancon had anything but support for the Lip workers and the marchers.

The second source of opposition, however, was more covert and threatened to have greater effect.

The leaders of the CGT (Confederation Generale du Travail — General Confederation of Labor), the Communist Party-dominated union federation) claimed that "some political groups are seeking to distort the significance (of the march) and to disturb its unfolding in the interest of partisan political aims contrary to the interests of the Lip workers." The CGT said it "denounces these diversionary manoeuvres, which can only play into the hands of the regime and the employers" and "asks all who are sincerely motivated by a spirit of solidarity with the Lip workers to be vigilant and to hold to the decisions and the slogans of the union organisations responsible for the march and to respect the trade-union character of the September 29 gathering."

The bureaucrats of the CFDT (Confederation Francaise Democratique du Travail — French Democratic Confederation of Labor) specifically referred to "far-left groups and organisations", which it claimed were trying to make the march "a people's festival or an 'independent' centre of co-ordination of struggles and of action committees or even an opportunity for a political confrontation with the regime, some (groups) even envisaging 'retaking' the factory."

The bureaucrats' aim was obvious. Over a period of weeks, it was the far-left organisations, and especially the ex-Ligue Communiste and Revolution, that had been building the September 29 march by setting up committees all over the country. The CP leaders continually insisted that the march was a "regional" action and made little effort to mobilise workers outside the Besancon area itself. In fact, the constant theme sounded by

the CP and SP leaders was that the march was in danger of being turned into an adventurist attempt to recapture the factory, which apart from being an outright lie was not exactly designed to assure maximum participation.

Rouge (formerly the weekly paper of the Ligue Communiste) and Revolution made statements against the bureaucratic attempts to scare people away from the march. Rouge declared that "by taking action in all the cities of France, we are only responding to the appeal of the Lip workers themselves." There was no question, Rouge said, of trying to retake the factory; the march "has no other goal than those defined by the Lip workers' general assembly. Rouge concluded by pointing out that the union bureaucracy was spending more energy in attacking the far left than it was in mobilising workers to join the march.

The Lip workers were not impressed by the bureaucrats' scare tactics. The day before the march, *Le Monde* reported that a general assembly of the Lip workers had made public the officially sanctioned composition of the march.

"Behind the union leadership, Lip personnel and the delegations from factories that are on strike, the demonstrators will march by region and department. But three political formations have been authorised to form contingents and will be interlaced with the departmental delegations. They are the PSU (Parti Socialiste Unifié — United Socialist Party), Rouge, and the Organisation Communiste Revolution.

"This is the first time in a demonstration supported by the CGT that revolutionary groups have been officially admitted. Nevertheless, the CGT at no time has met with representatives of these groups: the CFDT served as an intermediary."

Even though the bureaucrats had to yield under pressure from the Lip workers, they still tried to throw their weight around a bit on the eve of the march. By the night of September 28, according to *Le Monde*, some ten to fifteen thousand persons had already arrived in Besancon.

At Chateaufarine, on the outskirts of town, the various groups and delegations were setting up their stands, holding discussions, singing, and so on. The cops were maintaining a discrete absence from the area.

Le Monde's reporter noted that despite the "diligent" mediation efforts of the CFDT, it was not known on September 28 whether the CGT would agree to march along with the "revolutionary militants" on the next day.

The Rouge contingent numbered thousands; the other far-left groups also turned out in force. The action was still under the control of the CGT and CFDT leaders. But the fact that they were compelled to allow the participation of the far left in an action that basically involved a workers' struggle was another sign of the changing political climate in France.

The first to benefit from that change were the Lip workers. October 1, just two days after the march, had been Pompidou's deadline for having the Lip factory operating again, under bosses' control and with a reduced work force. He didn't make it.

Whether the workers will be able to hold their ground against the regime and the treachery of the bureaucracy may well depend on their ability to continue to organise national and international solidarity on the September 29 pattern.

Argentina: Peronism in Crisis

BY MIKE JONES

Juan Domingo Peron was elected to his second term as President of Argentina on September 23 this year. Coming only a few months after the election of Peron's Partido Justicialista (Social Justice Party) to the government in March, the resignation of the then-President Hector Campora to make way for the ageing Peron himself is an indication of the severe crisis facing the capitalists and military leaders of Argentina. (For full details of the events between March and September see previous issues of DIRECT ACTION).

The killing of trade-union leader Jose Rucci by unknown assailants a few days after the elections exemplified much more sharply the precarious position in which the ruling Peronist clique finds itself.

The election of Peron to replace former President Campora and the killing of Rucci are closely interwoven in the context of Argentine politics today. Campora's decision to retire came as a result of his inability to successfully carry out the mandate given to the Social Justice Party in March by its backers among the Argentine capitalists and landowners. Campora had failed miserably in his job of keeping the militant anti-imperialist and anti-bureaucratic workers' movement in check. The massive mobilisations of the days of the military junta prior to the March elections continued, as did the opposition to the strongly entrenched Peronist bureaucracies in the trade unions.

Rucci, the leader of the Confederacion General del Trabajo (CGT — General Confederation of Labor) and one of the more right-wing members of the Social Justice Party had been the subject of unrelenting attacks from all quarters in the workers' movement, especially from the extremely militant workers in the giant Fiat factories in the city of Cordoba.

He had rightly been labelled a traitor to the interests of the workers he was supposed to be representing and many workers were beginning to see the connection between the politics of Rucci and his cohorts and the politics of the Social Justice movement as a whole.

It was the continued atmosphere of anti-bureaucratic militancy among the workers that convinced the Peronist leaders of the necessity of retreating to their last line of defence — Peron himself — as a last-ditch effort to head off and divert the workers' anger. As such it is doomed a failure. Peron's popularity with the Argentine population will not last long when it becomes apparent that he is in no way a captive of right-wing forces in the Party as some left-Peronists maintain, but in reality just one more weapon in the arsenal of local and foreign capitalist interests in crisis.

One very important factor in both the March and September elections indicated that this latest tactic of reaction in Argentina will be a failure. Prior to the March elections, revolutionary socialists in the Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores (PST — Socialist Workers Party) realised the necessity for a genuine class alternative to the Social Justice leaders.

The PST set about organising what was known as the Workers' Front which was made up of democratically elected working-class candidates. Given the overwhelming support of the majority of the workers for Peron and his party, the Workers' Front could not hope to come anywhere near an electoral victory in March.

Nevertheless, they were able to take their case to the workers in a way that would not otherwise have been possible. The 70,000 votes the presidential and vice-presidential candidates of the front received represented a very important nucleus around which a genuine class alternative could be built. The fact that the front did not cease to exist after the elections but continued to propagandise for the policies on which it has contested the elections meant that it was able to enter the September elections in a much stronger position.

Juan Carlos Coral and Francisco Jose Paez were elected by the front as the presidential and vice-presidential



Peron and Rucci (centre)

candidates respectively. Together they received 190,000 votes, more than twice as many as the front's candidates in March received. In some parts of the country they more than trebled their March returns, polling up to 3.04 per cent of the total votes. Such a figure is quite considerable given the almost total lack of resources of the front, the refusal of the media to publicise the campaign and the fact that many workers, although disillusioned with the Social Justice movement since March

were still not prepared to give their vote to a tiny organisation with no hope of winning the elections.

Winning the elections, however, was not in any way the prime concern of the militants involved in the Workers Front and the PST. Their policy in March and in September was to present the workers with a viable alternative programme to the one presented by Peron and supported by the bosses, the military and the imperialists. Having done this they

intend to follow up their electoral intervention with continued activity inside the workers' movement presenting the same consistent class alternative to bureaucrats like Rucci and Co in the CGT.

WHAT FUTURE IS THERE FOR PERONISM?

As was pointed out at the beginning of this article, capitalism in Argentina has gone from crisis to crisis since the elections in March. Campora showed that any attempt on his part to apply the brakes to the militancy of workers only resulted in more determined efforts by the holders of the CGT leadership over the rank and file and pushed many workers right out of the Peronist camp.

Two alternatives were then open to the Peronists to rectify the situation: either they could have back-pedalled and given in to some of the workers' demands or they could have capitulated to the pressure of the extreme right-wing "gorillas" in the armed forces and returned the country to a state of direct military rule. Neither of these alternatives was acceptable to the Peronist leaders or their backers. Instead they chose what will prove to be no alternative at all — substitution of Campora by Peron himself.

There is no reason to believe that those forces which brought about Campora's resignation will not also be at work with Peron holding the reins. Indications of the workers' unwillingness to be duped by the invocation of the "good old days" of the 1940s when Peron was able to satisfy many of the most pressing demands of the workers are the continued mobilisations, especially in Cordoba, against the trade-union bureaucracy, which indicate an unwillingness on the part of the workers to sit back and waiting for Peron to solve all their problems.

Once the workers see that Peron will be no different from Campora, they will not hesitate to show it. The programme of the PST and the Workers' Front and their policy of consistent defence of the workers' rights and interests will then demonstrate its true importance. Rucci is dead — Peron and everything he stands for is dying. The only way forward for the Argentine workers is to cut off these gangrenous appendages before it is too late.

INTER-CONTINENTAL PRESS

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March in support of Lip workers at Besancon

Immigrant Workers Fight Racism



Immigrant workers rally September 14 in Paris during strike against racist workers organisations.

BY PETER NAGAR

On September 14, Algerians, Moroccans, and Tunisians conducted a general strike in Paris — their first ever. Thousands of immigrants in various branches of industry (and some French workers too) responded to a call by the Mouvement des Travailleurs Arabes (MTA — Movement of Arab Workers) and walked off the job to protest the current wave of racism in France. The Paris strike came less than two weeks after similar actions in the Bouches-du-Rhone region in the south.

In an editorial published in August, *Le Meridional*, mass-circulation daily in Marseille, the second largest city in France, said: "We have had enough of Algerian thieves, Algerian thugs, Algerian braggarts, Algerian troublemakers, Algerian syphilitics, Algerian pimps, Algerian lunatics and Algerian killers."

Around the same time, racist slogans began appearing on the walls of the city. But the pogrom atmosphere was more than just a mood. Between August 25 and September 19 at least eleven Algerians were murdered; Arab cafes were attacked, dozens of Arabs were assaulted. At the same time, the Pompidou regime stepped up official harassment of the immigrant workers by means of identity checks, expulsions, etc.

The France-based organisation (semi-officially tied to the Boumedienne regime in Algiers) that is supposed to look after the rights of Algerian workers in France is an outfit called *Amicale des Algeriens* (Brotherhood of Algerians). In the face of the racist attacks hitting the immigrant workers, the *Amicale* has intransigently maintained Boumedienne's line of "moderation" and "dignity". So the Algerians (and the Moroccans and Tunisians) have turned to the MTA for support.

Earlier this year, on June 9, the fascist *Ordre Nouveau* (New Order) movement announced a campaign to "reject wild-cat immigration". Given the general leftward movement of the French politics, the growth of the far left, and the weakness of the far right, the immigrant issue seemed the only one that offered real potential for intervening and trying to turn the political situation around. The projected campaign fitted in well with the usual tactics of the bourgeoisie, which still finds racism one of its most powerful weapons in opposing workers upsurges.

Ordre Nouveau's campaign bore fruit on June 12. On that day, in Grasse, about fifty immigrant workers demonstrating for better living conditions were arrested after being attacked by cops and a racist mob.

The next major step in *Ordre Nouveau*'s campaign was to have been a mass meeting in the Mutilite in Paris on June 21. But the meeting was confronted by a large anti-fascist demonstration organised by nine far-left organisations, principally by the *Ligue Communiste*, then the French section of the *Fourth International*. The anti-fascist demonstrators were attacked by police defending the *Ordre Nouveau* meeting. Violent clashes followed, and the Pompidou Government used the occasion to ban the *Ligue*, adding in an attempt to appear impartial that *Ordre Nouveau* would be banned too.

The massive campaign to defend the

Ligue against government repression helped to mobilise public opinion against the anti-immigration campaign and managed temporarily to thwart *Ordre Nouveau*'s plans.

The Pompidou regime, which supplemented the racist campaign through its legal proceedings against immigrants, wrongly assumed that the moderation of the *Amicale* would once again serve to prevent the immigrants from acting in their own defence. On September 3, North Africans throughout the Bouches-du-Rhone area went on strike in response to a call by the MTA. The *Amicale* would not sign the strike appeal.

Estimates of the number of striking workers varied between 20,000 and 30,000. The Paris daily *Le Monde* reported on September 4 that the strike was 100 per cent effective in Fos and in Aix.

The breadth of the strike surprised the *Amicale*, in that it was scarcely organised at all. But the MTA began to realise the need for organisation, being itself somewhat taken by surprise by the massive response of the immigrants to its strike call. Meetings were held to discuss further action.

They decided to call for a strike in the Paris area on September 14. Strike committees were set up to organise the action and to "make contact with French

Thai Regime Toppled

BY RENFREY CLARKE

In a militant mass upsurge, extending over a week of demonstrations and street battles, the workers and students of Bangkok have toppled the military Government of Thanom Kittikachorn. Estimates of the number killed in the fighting range as high as 400. There now seems little that the Thai military can do to prevent the constitutional rule, suspended by Thanom after a coup in 1971, from being restored.

The uprising was sparked by student demands that 13 of their arrested leaders be released from gaol. The 13 had been arrested during the past few weeks for taking part in the massive student and worker demonstrations against the military dictatorship.

The first great mobilisation occurred in June of this year when students initiated



Meeting of students in Bangkok

a campaign to rid the country of American domination and restore democratic rights to the population. A demonstration of 25,000 students, with general support from the workers, forced the Government to reinstate nine students expelled from the universities. From then on, continuous pressure was exerted for ending the presence in Thailand of 38,000 US military personnel and of air bases which dominate all of Indo-China.



Algerian workers live in slums like these

The demonstrating students quickly took up the popular demand for an end to the rampant inflation and flagrant government corruption. Persistent shortages of food, particularly rice, gave a major impetus to the anti-Government campaign.

Unlike previous demonstrations in Bangkok and elsewhere in the country, the workers and students were not deterred by the army's use of tanks and machine

guns. The demonstrators' morale was undoubtedly boosted considerably when several navy units refused to shoot at them and some even came over to the other side.

When the street battles finally ended, a number of progressive changes had been secured. The 13 imprisoned students were released and the fragile Government of Sanya Thammasak had promised constitutional rule within 12 months. Extreme pressure was also being put on the US to withdraw its forces.

At present the aims of the students and workers are limited to re-establishing a democratic regime. Many of the students carried portraits of reform-minded King Bhumibol. The demand for breaking all ties with US imperialism, however, is bound to run up against difficulties on that score.

No merely liberal-minded regime in the colonial world is capable of taking the decisive steps necessary to break completely with US imperialism — this has been proven time and time again, more recently in Chile. The fact that Thailand is so strategically vital for US interests in Indo-China makes such a solution all the more unlikely. For this reason the student and workers' movement has the potential of developing into something far more radical.

One factor of the situation is encouraging beyond all others: even though the protesters do not seem to have carried out agitational work within the army in any organised and conscious way, the military heads have been unwilling to risk using the army in an all-out assault on the workers. The most dangerous opponent of any revolutionary insurrection at this stage appears to be weak

and divided.

and divided.

The Fall of Spiro Agnew

BY CHRIS GRAHAM

The resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew and Nixon's sacking of his Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox came at a time when the bourgeois media was complacently predicting the denouement of the scandal. These latest crises which have rocked the Nixon Administration demonstrate again that the Watergate scandal cannot be wished away.

FAREWELL SPIRO

At a court hearing on October 10 convened to decide if Agnew should be tried on charges of tax evasion, bribery and extortion, Agnew made a brief statement to the effect that he would not contest the charge of tax evasion, and that he was resigning as Vice President. Agnew was fined \$US 10,000 (\$A 6500) and placed on three years probation. The other charges against him were dropped.

Agnew stated that his action was motivated by "a firm belief that the national interest required swift disposition of the problems facing me."

Others were not quite so tactful. US attorney Thompson, serving on the investigation into Agnew's activities bluntly stated that "The man (Agnew) is a crook, no question about it." Thompson probably repeated a thought crossing many people's minds when he declared that, "If the case had gone to trial, a conviction would have resulted."

Both interpretations have merit. But former Attorney-General Richardson summed up the affair most succinctly in his statement that a trial of Agnew would have been "likely to inflict upon the nation serious and permanent scars."

These considerations pervade the thinking of all sectors of the ruling class as it seeks a way out of Watergate. But in spite of this, it still remains deeply divided. The furore which resulted from Nixon's dismissal of Cox only added to this as we shall see later.

Agnew's resignation came only a few days after he had declared, "I will not resign if indicted." Rumors of a deal made between Agnew and the Justice Department, conducting the investigation, were quickly substantiated by Agnew's lawyer, Jay Topkis.

The crux of the deal between Agnew and the Justice Department was that Agnew was to plead guilty to the charge of tax evasion (Agnew's plea of no contest is legally equivalent to pleading guilty) in return for escaping prison. Attorney-General Richardson personally intervened to ensure this.

Indications are that Agnew did not support this deal wholeheartedly. His intransigence was evident right up until the morning of his resignation on October 10. That morning, The New York Times ran a story which cited a Justice Department document which contained "incontrovertible evidence" against Agnew. While the Times did not reveal any of this evidence, the point was nevertheless made, if Agnew needed any more convincing of the need to "plead guilty and keep silent."

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM A FRIEND

Nor did pressure on Agnew to resign come solely from the press. It was no secret that the White House had a vested interest in Agnew's departure from the political scene. It transpired that Nixon was informed of Agnew's resignation the night before. White House aides told the press that Nixon had been "fully briefed" on Agnew's resignation, and was already considering a successor.

Nixon wrote a letter to his former subordinate. After alleging "a great sense of personal regret" Nixon went on:

"However, I respect your decision and I also respect the concern for the national interest that led you to conclude that a resolution of the matter in this way (resigning) rather than through an extended legal battle in the courts and Congress, was advisable in order to avoid a protracted period of division and uncertainty."

Nixon clearly supported, if not engineered, Agnew's resignation. The idea was to avoid the "protracted period of division and uncertainty" which would

result if the disclosures continued.

This endeavor will only be successful in the short run. Because of his admission of guilt, Agnew is now immune from further prosecution on the charges of extortion and kick-backs. The only information which has become widely available concerns Agnew's tax evasion. But this suppression will only be temporary. Agnew could be subpoenaed as a witness in the trials of others involved in the case.

At this point it would be worthwhile to consider the speculation that Nixon himself was behind the Agnew scandal in an attempt to divert attention from Watergate. While the evidence does much to substantiate this view, it must be realised that this was a major blunder on Nixon's part. The disclosures only weakened the position of the Nixon Administration, all the more so as Agnew had hitherto been considered as the "Mr Clean" of Nixon's Administration. With that image so effectively destroyed as a result of the disclosure of the credibility of the whole apparatus of American capitalism suffered.

GETTING THE BUGS OUT OF WATERGATE

With the Agnew affair temporarily suppressed, Nixon then moved against another major thorn in his side — the controversy over the Watergate tapes. He offered a compromise to Federal judge John Sirica.

Under this compromise, the Senate Watergate committee agreed to forego its attempts to get access to Nixon's tapes. Nixon in turn agreed to supply Sirica with an edited version of the tapes but not the verbatim originals.

As the House of Representatives formally launched the first moves towards his impeachment Nixon moved again. Realising the enormity of the opposition to his Administration and the likelihood of his being put in contempt of court, he yielded. On October 23 he announced that he was handing over the tapes to judge Sirica. Nixon's reversal of his earlier stand represented the complete failure of his "compromise".



"The time has come... to forthrightly declare our rejection and contempt for those who practice subversion, lawlessness and violence." April 24, 1970

Nixon ordered Watergate prosecutor Cox to stop his attempts to get the tapes. (Cox had subpoenaed them as soon as their existence had been revealed.) When Cox refused, Nixon sacked him on October 20.

Nixon ordered Attorney-General Richardson to implement this dismissal. Richardson refused, and resigned. Deputy Attorney-General William French Smith was dismissed when he also refused to sack Cox.

Immediately following Cox's dismissal Nixon blockaded his offices with FBI agents to prevent any files being taken out of the building.

DEMANDS FOR IMPEACHMENT

Nixon thus brought on the very confrontation he had been trying to avoid. A nationwide furor was touched off by the sacking, bourgeois politicians of all stripes were obliged to start calling for impeachment proceedings against Nixon.

Democratic Senator Muskie stated that "Only one forum is left that in my judgement is adequate — and that is the impeachment process."

A snap poll taken in the House of Representatives revealed that at least 24 congressmen were prepared to move against Nixon. (Under the American constitution, the House of Representatives decides by majority vote to impeach the President. If the vote is carried, the case is taken to the Senate which is converted into a court to try the President. A two-thirds majority is required to secure a conviction.)

Whether the supporters of impeachment, Muskie, Kennedy and Cowill carry out their threat to impeach Nixon is quite another matter. These gentlemen have been vociferous in their condemnation of Nixon, but conspicuous in their failure to take any action to discover the whole truth of Watergate. Like Nixon they are capitalist politicians seeking to uphold the status quo.

We must reiterate that an impeachment trial would do irreparable damage to the credibility of the capitalist class. Democrats and Republicans alike have a vested interest in avoiding it. Most calls for impeachment have been accompanied by suggestions that Nixon resign, which from the point of view of the ruling class would be preferable to impeachment.

The ruling class is deeply divided as a result of Watergate. The key to this disunity has been the massive upsurge of opposition to the Watergate disclosures which occupies the centre of American politics. Faced with this tremendous mass pressure, sections of the ruling class have been forced to adapt to it, in the hope of co-opting the struggles of the working people into "legal" channels.

Other organisations not previously noted for their opposition to the Nixon Administration have been forced to take a stand. The bureaucratic leadership of the American Federation of Labor — Congress of Industrial Organisation (AFL-CIO — the American equivalent to the ACTU), at a special session on October 22 unanimously passed a resolution demanding that Nixon resign or be impeached.

The President of the AFL-CIO, George Meany, has in general supported Nixon, acting as a willing accomplice in his offensive against the working class through his "incomes policies". But the radicalisation of rank-and-file members of the American union movement as a result of Watergate, the effect of the mass anti-war, women's liberation and black movements on the unions and the deepening economic crisis in the United States have forced the labor leaders to change their position or lose the allegiance of the rank and file.

But there is obviously a limit to how far Meany and Co can go in accommodating the outrage of the rank and file. The labor bureaucrats all stand for the retention of the capitalist system which breeds such scandals as Watergate.

Nixon is now faced with the worst crisis of his Administration. Its outcome can only weaken the credibility of the capitalist system which oppresses the working people, but also that of the labor lieutenants of capitalism who serve to defuse the deepening struggles against aspects of the capitalist system.

Labor Loses Another By-Election

BY ANDREW JAMIESON

Hopes within the ruling circles of the Liberal Party rose considerably for the promise of a "victory" at the Federal polls after the substantial defeat of the Labor Party at the Greensborough by-election in Victoria on October 13. Many leading figures, such as the former Minister for Labour and National Service, Phillip Lynch, have followed the footsteps of John Gorton in indicating their support for a snap poll within the next month. Lynch, speaking soon after the by-election, claimed the Liberals were in a good enough shape to force elections, obviously expressing the opinions of a large section of the Liberal Party.

The election was held as a result of a ruling from the Court of Disputed Returns after discrepancies were found in 5 votes which could have allowed the former Member for Greensborough, Bob Fell — the ALP candidate, to win his seat back from the Liberal's candidate, Monty Vale. The discrepancies occurred during

the Victorian State elections on May 19 this year.

The loss of the seat to the ruling Liberal Government in Victoria was the second major defeat for the Federal ALP leadership, within a month. The first, the Parramatta by-election, indicated very clearly the back-tracking role of Whitlam and his parliamentary cohorts. The swing of between 4-5 per cent to the Liberals reflected dissatisfaction with Labor's handling of inflationary attacks on living standards. It wasn't that the Liberals offered a better solution, far from it, the swing was away from the ALP leadership — not to the reactionary policies of the Liberals.

The debacle in Greensborough was a more thorough-going affair for Clyde Holding and his "Opposition" team. If the electorate in Parramatta thought Whitlam had given up the ghost of winning, then the Greensborough voters must have thought Labor handed the seat to the Liberals on a silver platter. No

effective campaign on any issue was mobilised by the ALP. Minimum effort only was put into public meetings and Holding didn't dare to even project himself as a "public statesman", the image that Whitlam managed to acquire. The Liberals had a field day, utilising for their own openly backward position the hostility shown by the working people against the pro-capitalist stance of Whitlam, particularly on the coming referendum on prices and incomes controls.

Reasons for Labor's defeat have yet to emerge from the Victorian ALP. The usual opportunist position of claiming that governments "never win by-elections" will not be taken seriously, as the Liberals did have a convincing win. Some will claim, and not without reason, that the Victorian ALP is seriously in debt with relation to party funds; others will suggest Holding hasn't got the trendy, public image of Premier Dick Hamer. However, the real reason for the defeat and the 9 per cent

swing against Labor lies with the capitulation of the ALP leadership with regard to the main problems besetting the working people of Australia.

Inflation, the number-one problem affecting the majority of Australians has shown in a sharp manner where the real interests of the ALP hierarchy lie. Instead of mobilising people against attacks on their living standards the ALP brass have sought to introduce wage controls, shifting the blame for inflation onto the backs of the wage and salary-earner. As was shown in the Federal elections ten months ago, the majority looked to the ALP for solutions to the problems of rising unemployment and inflation. However the radical promises of Whitlam and his group have failed to materialise, in fact he intends to implement attacks on the working people in the form of wage controls, whether directly or indirectly through the fraud of controlling prices.

While election figures cannot be taken as expressing the direct feelings of voters, discernable trends can be noted from the Greensborough by-election. Firstly, the influence of the Democratic Labor Party has again markedly dropped to 6.6 per cent from 12.2 per cent in 1970 carrying on their declining position at the State elections this year. The DLP vote had for the first time in the area dropped below the Australia Party. There was a swing of 2.56 per cent against Labor while the Liberals increased their vote by 4.9 per cent. Interest in the election remained very high with the number of informal votes dropped by almost 50 per cent. Clearly the election results coupled with the back-sliding stance of the ALP leadership indicate the demand for an alternative position to the inequities of capital. Openly reactionary forces, such as the DLP, have declined in influence.

In order to properly evaluate the reasons for defeat of Labor in Greensborough, it is in order to see that the pro-capitalist reformist idea of the ALP brass can never solve working peoples' problems.



Hamer and Holding

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDUCATION AND SOCIALISM

Dear Jim McLroy,

I write to you as a comrade-in-arms, but really have to object to the way you analysed the state aid situation in your article in the September 13 DIRECT ACTION. Santamaria's worries about dark Labor plots aren't ill-founded, from your point of view, and while ever socialists continue to defend their education system as "religious bigotry" Santamaria will continue to dominate Catholic opinion.

How can I explain my standpoint? I have had experience teaching in Catholic schools and in non-Catholic schools, and I know very well the kind of people who exercise power in the state education bureaucracies. These cynical opportunists are much more destructive to school-children's minds than the most backward nun or teaching brother. You can see the effects in a visit to any state school or teacher training institution. Most are in a state bordering on collapse, with apathy, brainless agitation and activism rampant. Christian religion has managed to protect the Catholic education system from the worst excesses of this kind of thing — a solidarity and fellow-feeling exists in a way which has no equivalent at all in the state system, even among the so-called "left", which, unlike its US and European counterpart is not genuinely Marxist and merely reflects the postivist-liberal ideology of the establishment even when it imagines itself as "militant". Because of the cracked-brainedness of both the "right" and "left" wings of the state education establishment Catholics have a siege mentality. They don't want to see their kids become freaks and dropouts and so even many who are totally hostile to the political ideas of Santamaria and Co still support the Catholic school system against the State.

The correct socialist strategy in my book is to make contact with progressive elements among Catholics and try to split the Catholic faction from within rather than bundling them together as religious bigots and thus keeping them united. Communist experience in Eastern Europe has shown that it isn't possible to elevate Marxism into a competitor with Christianity and that a synthesis has to be worked out between the two philosophies for Christians to be won away from capitalism. The anti-clerical prejudices that show through in your article are fifty years out of date, and they definitely prevent many sound elements on the left making contact with people who otherwise would be willing to co-operate.

Sincerely,
Wayne Hall

IN REPLY

Wayne Hall's letter raises a number of important issues. Only a few of them can be briefly mentioned here.

1) The Catholic school system is maintained by the Church authorities for the specific purpose of indoctrinating the children of Catholic families with religious mythology and conservative ideas on politics, social life (the family, abortion) and so on. It was the "religious bigotry" of the Church itself which was being referred to in the article on State Aid in DA No 47. State aid is a direct subsidy to the Catholic Church and cannot be justified.

2) The history of the Christian Church is a totally anti-working-class one. Marxism is utterly incompatible with established Christianity, philosophically and politically. While Christianity offers a "life after death", Marxism shows that a social transformation of society is possible in the real world right now. There can be no "synthesis" of these two views.

3) The experience of Stalinism (not communism) in Eastern Europe, (especially Poland), has shown that the deep-rooted nature of Christian institutions cannot be surpassed without the opening up of a full workers' democracy, a development of the fullest flowering of education on the widest levels within a workers' state. The "synthesis" (or co-operation) between the Stalinist bureaucracy of Poland and the reactionary Polish Catholic Church is merely a reflection of the bankruptcy of Stalinism.

Polish peasants cling to Catholicism as part of their resistance to the Stalinist bureaucracy. Christianity's social roots will be eliminated when that bureaucracy is overthrown.

4) The State school system has become a major crisis point for capitalist society. It is true that the development of the educational bureaucracy in this country is appalling, but the real crisis of our State schools is the failure of established education to be able to deal with the new demands of youth. The "state bordering on collapse" is a result of the fact that schools, in a unique way, have become centres of the class struggle. Students hate their education system, and so do many of the teachers who are forced to work in it.

5) You cannot merely lump together "right" and "left" in the "educational establishment". Teachers are basically workers. Many of them are becoming radicalised and beginning to struggle against an education system which exploits them as well as oppressing students. Marxist, i.e. revolutionary socialist, ideas are achieving more and more influence among militant teachers in Australia, as overseas. The teacher unions have become centres of militant struggle. There is virtually no unionisation among teachers in Catholic schools, so they are cut off from taking part in these developments. Unionisation of teachers in Catholic schools would be a very important development, which would transform the situation in the Catholic system.

6) The "solidarity and fellow-feeling" of Christian schools is a false one, based on an outmoded semi-feudal insularity. The "near collapse" of the State school system, (perhaps a little exaggerated), is a reflection of the real state of society and its ideological crisis. Certainly, we must make contact with "progressive elements" among Catholic teachers and parents but they must realise that religious indoctrination is incompatible with human freedom. When they themselves begin to fight against the archaic system of Catholic education as it is now constituted there will be real grounds for co-operation. While Catholic schools exist, socialists should support any movements which develop, particularly among the students themselves. For example, demands for the right of students to choose whether to receive religious instruction or not would be extremely progressive. The power of the Catholic Church over the lives of Catholic youth must be opposed in every possible way. This is just as important now as 50 or 100 years ago.

WHAT ABOUT WOMEN WORKERS?

Dear DIRECT ACTION,

I just have to criticise your front page cartoon (DA No 48) portraying Whitlam's proposed wage freeze, in which the "worker victims" are shown as two males only.

Women make up over 30% of the work force, but as usual are invisible to male eyes, it seems. Yet their unequal pay will be frozen also.

Now that a woman is to be the new editor (right on, Sister) perhaps we can have this sort of thing rectified. (There is an old saying "out of sight, out of mind.")

Yours hopefully,
Connie Fraser.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 8.00 pm
"BEHIND THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION" Managing editor of DIRECT ACTION, Sol Salby; and a member of the Arab community look at the latest Middle East events.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 8.00 pm
"ISSUES FACING THE UNION MOVEMENT" Doug Jordan will discuss some of the central issues confronting the union movement at this time, such as those of inflation, the 35-hour week and the threat of a wage freeze.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 8.00 pm
"BEHIND THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION" Jim McLroy, Melbourne organiser of the Socialist Workers League, analyses the latest developments in the Middle East.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 8.00 pm
"WAGE FREEZE — THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE" Doug Lorimer discusses the experience of Nixon's wage-price freeze and the lessons for the Australian Labor movement.

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* If the employers want to raise their prices the labor movement demands that they open their books. Let us decide if they "can't afford" not to raise their prices! Demand an end to business secrets, which are only a means to cover up the employers huge profits.

* Key monopolies like BHP, whose product's prices determine the prices of so many other goods, raise their prices as they please. They hold society to ransom. BHP and the other giant companies should be nationalised under workers' control.

* Repeal the penal clauses of the Arbitration Act. The trade unions must be free to fight for a better living standard for the working people. We must oppose any form of state control of the unions which would be the inevitable result of the implementation of a wage freeze.

* Form committees of workers, housewives, pensioners, unemployed and students in each area to carry out a continuous supervision of prices in their area and organise and participate in actions such as boycotts against firms which raise prices.

PUBLIC MEETING

VOTE NO! TO WHITLAM'S PRICES & INCOMES REFERENDUM

SYDNEY Trades Hall Auditorium Fri. Nov. 16, 7.30pm	MELBOURNE Lower Town Hall Wed. Nov. 14, 8pm	ADELAIDE 287 Rundle St, Adelaide Thurs. Nov. 29, 8pm
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