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We Want
Peace
For All Time,
For Evermore!

THE ELECTION ISSUES,
The Committee of Canadian Communists
217-1808 Smith Street,
Regina, Sask., S4P 2N3

Dear reader,

Make your vote count by voting for your own interests.

The politicians and the media conspire to make the election campaign dull and boring, discussing affairs which skirt the issues and quench the hope that anything will be done to solve the burning problems that people face.

The "Great Debate" reveals one thing for sure: not one of the Big Three has any answers to solve the people's problems or, if they do, they are keeping it a secret.

The restrictive and biased election laws of Canada compel the Communist Party to run a minimum number of candidates in order to be listed as the official Communist Party of Canada.

Attempting to cope with just this problem places another burden on the small Communist Party in a situation when the media imposes a black-out on what the Party has to say.

Nevertheless, wherever Communist candidates are running they should be the first choice; and where they are not running, the vote should go to the NDP with perhaps a few exceptions.

Every vote for a Communist is noted by the ruling class who use it as a bench mark to judge the political strength of the Communist Party and the influence of its ideology.

A vote for a Communist candidate is a vote for an anti-monopoly coalition, for unity of the working people against the monopolies and the international monopolies for peace and a socialist Canada.

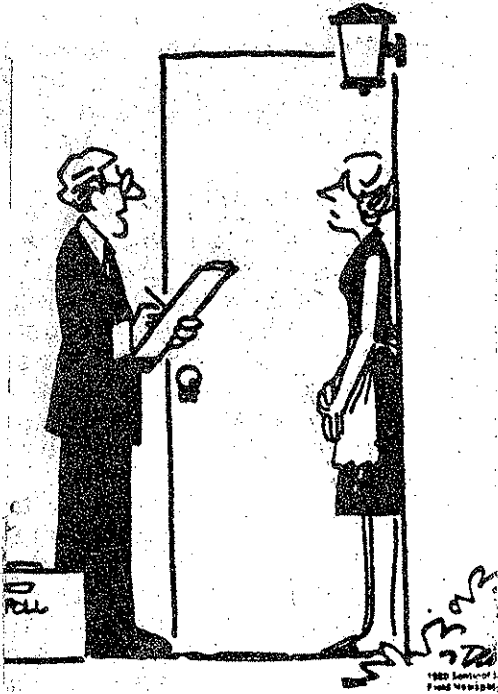
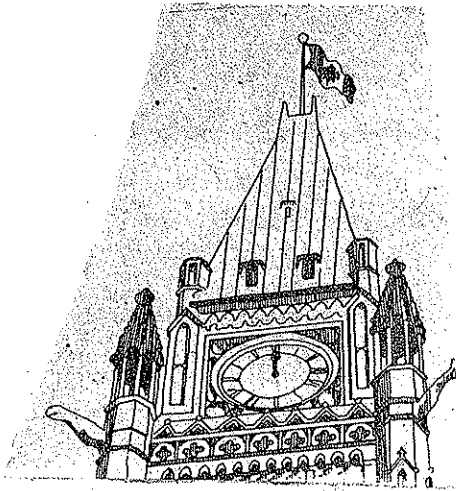
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Two young comrades have submitted articles -- one on agriculture and one on youth problems. Unfortunately, we were not able to use them in this issue of FOCUS.



"Whom do you wish you had voted for?"



JOBS PEACE New Economic Policies for People

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

Soon you will be casting a vote in a general election.

For whom? For what?

The outgoing Liberal government has found no solutions to the serious social and economic problems of the day--nor have the opposition parties.

The economic situation can and likely will get worse, the reason for an early election.

The policies followed by all governments are to dismantle the social welfare system and to adopt policies which result in fewer jobs, lower wages, and a weakened trade union movement.

Alberta's Manpower Minister, Tory Ernest Isley said that unemployment is good for the economy because it controls wages. Isley said he wouldn't want Alberta to return to the days when virtually no unemployment existed.

He had the brass to say that unemployment is good from a "humanitarian point of view" (!) because of the psychological satisfaction it gives the unemployed in finding a job!

Isley's statements express the real, calloused attitude the bosses hold toward the working man.

UNEMPLOYMENT DOESN'T COME ABOUT BECAUSE PEOPLE'S NEEDS ARE SATISFIED.

People need BETTER and MORE food, clothing, housing and recreation. Poverty is widespread and governments have declared war on the poor.

The poorest one-fifth of the population--about five million--receives a total of only 4% of the total personal incomes in Canada, whereas the wealthiest one-fifth receives 42% of the total personal income.

There are one million Ontario people living in poverty--and 1.5 million are "poor". Of these 363,000 are children.

In 1981 social benefits made up 29%

of the incomes of the poorest groups.

It was worse for women. Sixty percent of all families have two income earners and women contribute about 20% to the total family income.

In 1981 the average man's wage was \$18,200 and in the same year the average woman's wage was barely more than 50% of that at \$9,700.

A single mother with one child in Toronto earns only 60% of what is considered to be a modest income. No wonder women make up 38% of poverty groups.

The media reports that Quebec youths can't live on \$152 a month welfare so they have to sift through garbage.

And even these official statistics conceal the fact that hidden and open taxes take 52% out of all incomes.

Medicare is suffering from underfunding, with a long waiting list of ill people denied hospital treatment when they need it, while doctor's incomes soar. In 1983 doctors incomes rose by 22% to \$138,457 a year in Alberta.

The concentration of economic power in the hands of the giant corporations on whose boards of directors sit men who are not in the least concerned about solving problems of unemployment, poverty and death--

the threat of nuclear annihilation.

This is the root of the current capitalist crisis.

EVERY CITIZENS OF CANADA SHOULD BE
GUARANTEED THE RIGHT TO A JOB.

The elementary right to work should be the law of the land. Only work ensures the freedom of the individual.

Living in constant fear of losing one's job is a violation of the human personality because labour is the centre of social existence, the prime field of man's self-expression. Unemployment deprives life of its meaning. (There is a high suicide rate among unemployed)

The Right to a Job is the most elementary human right which prevents each individual from being excluded from participation in the life of society.

THEREFORE, A CENTRAL DEMAND IN THIS ELECTION IS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES AIMED AT ACHIEVING FULL EMPLOYMENT.

DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK

Those people who, out of anger and frustration, vote for "Reaganomics" as a way out of capitalist crisis cast a vote which will invite all of the negative processes which work further hardships on people.

The more highly paid workers who believe that they will personally benefit by supporting Right-wing conservative policies are hastening the day when they, too, will be confronted with the grim reality of the loss of jobs and security and possessions.

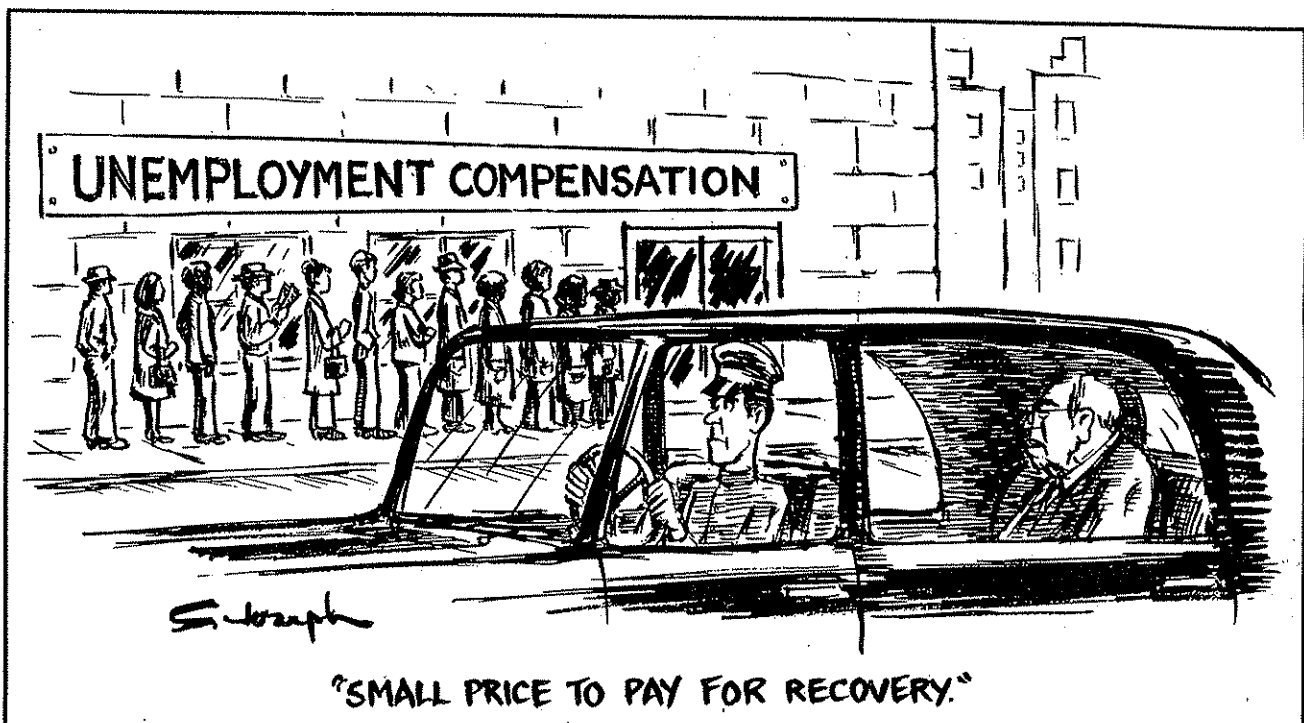
Monopoly conducts an aggressive no-holds-barred attack on the workers and farmers.

Monopoly's all-out offensive against the people has led to more unemployment, an increase in part time work, cuts in wages and a cruel slashing of the already inadequate welfare system.

The media reports that in Calgary, each day, job seekers line up for jobs at the slave exchange before 5 a.m. The going rate for casual labour in Calgary is \$5 an hour. Some work for \$4 an hour and others for as low as the \$3.85 minimum.

The bosses clothe their shameless attacks on the working people in bold and ringing terms which appeal to those with a prejudiced and narrow-minded outlook. They assert that business can't afford to pay union rates, that union rates make Canada non-competitive on the world market, that union rates of pay reduces the numbers of jobs. (But they, themselves keep the resulting higher profits and do not pass them on in order to become "competitive")

Monopoly is conducting courses, seminars and special studies among the top



brass to teach them how to destroy the trade union movement and how to break strikes.

The extreme attacks on the labour movement by the right-wing Bennett and Lougheed governments endanger the democratic rights of all Canadians. Those attacks are intended to "take on" labour in a pace-setting attack for all governments in Canada.

British Columbia has a high rate of investment, has abolished some essential social services, has reduced the numbers of civil servants (partly by farming out some services to private companies so there is only an appearance of less government employees while the public pays more for the same) has deregulated industry and gives tax breaks to business -- surely a devastating "reward" for the lack of unity and purpose of the whole labour movement.

THE REACTIONARY ROLE OF THE MASS MEDIA

The monopoly-controlled mass media leads the campaign to sell Canadians the criminal war plans of the Reagan administration.

It hides the extent of poverty in Canada, the prevalence of low wages and poor housing. It campaigns against working class rights and exaggerates the problems strikes create.

Media "intellectuals" learnedly discuss the tactics of the Liberal, Tory and NDP candidates and, while attempting to give the appearance of good media coverage keep the basic issues out of the campaign.

The concept of civil rights has been so distorted that even the so-called civil rights of individual businessmen to do as they like, of gangsters, criminals, warmongers, drunks, sex offenders, pornographers, drug pedlars and perverts of all kinds are given precedence over the legitimate rights of the people.

The same forces in society do not champion the basic human right to a fulfilling and rewarding life--the right of every child to a happy and peaceful childhood--the right of everyone to a decent home and education--and, most of all, the right

of everyone to be free from the everlasting and oppressive fear of nuclear war.

THE RED HERRING

The mass media spreads anti-communist and anti-Soviet ideas as a means of selling boss ideas to working people--

It depicts communism as being alien to the interests of the workers and tries to convince the workers that their interests are the same as those of the bosses. It deliberately distorts the nature of capitalism.

The mass media plays the game of trying to take people's minds off their real problems: the lack of jobs and job security--low rates of pay--foreclosures--kids into drugs--mortgage abandonment--unemployment insurance runs out this week--long waiting lists to get into hospital at a terrible cost to the patient. (That by no means exhausts the list).

The mass media is the vehicle for conducting crusades against peace, justice and democratic advance. It justifies the suicidal arms race by peddling Washington's phony human rights issue and by either concealing or distorting the Soviet position on war and peace.

The mass media challenges the peace movement to conduct campaigns on behalf of the Soviet dissidents, the Sakharovs in particular, in place of demanding an arms freeze and disarmament.

Inherent in the media's so-called human rights position is total endorsement of the Reagan war-making policies. They demand that the peace movement should demand that the USSR should give Sakharov what he wants or Reagan should push the button!

WORKING FAMILIES ARE LOSING

A number of bad union contracts have been and are being signed, some for as long as three year's duration, all at rates of pay well below the average rate of inflation.

Wage increases through collective bar-

gaining by unions with memberships over 500 average 3.9% for the first quarter of 1983, the lowest increase since 1967.

Trade union bureaucrats try to persuade workers to accept pay cuts by claiming that voluntary cuts in pay will create jobs. But even though workers have accepted pay cuts there are more unemployed.

Very often the rank-and-file are more militant than the trade union leaders.

Many labour leaders are super-bureaucrats with big salaries, reactionary and anti-communist to the core, who support the status quo. They won't give a lead to the fight-back against monopoly because that kind of mass struggle repels them and because they fear the "communist" label will be hung around their necks.

Workers have taken up mass actions--rallies and demonstrations--to defend themselves--and the intensity of the class struggle has grown.

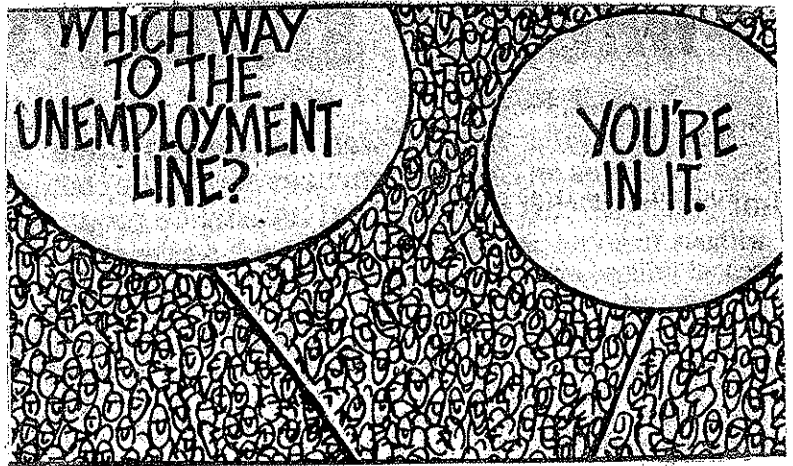
There is reason to believe that these struggles which involve such large numbers of the rank-and-file will succeed. The problem is unity--real "solidarity"--that is, workers backing up workers in the struggle to satisfy the needs of the workers.

There is a lesson to be learned from the contrast of the extreme display of love for Polish solidarity by the Canadian ruling class and its extreme hatred of Canadian solidarity.

THE PATH TO RECOVERY

The unity and solidarity of the workers behind a militant program for their needs would assure the success of solutions to capitalist crisis in the interests of the working people.

It is certain that trade union proposals are not taken seriously by governments. All the more reason to conduct a vigorous, independent campaign for reforms that:



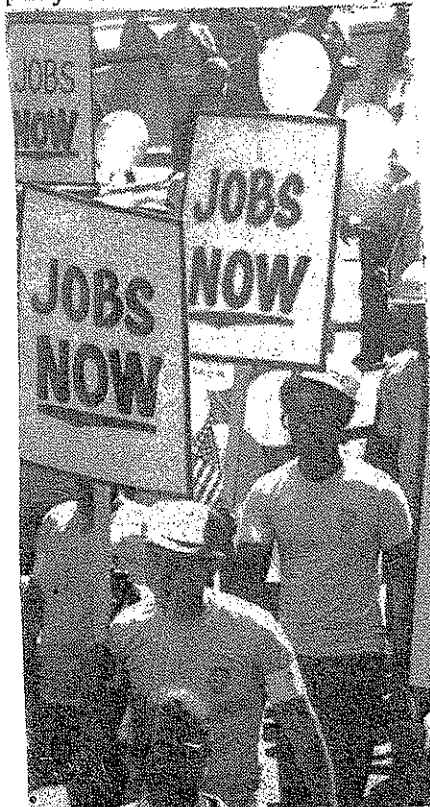
- give a boost in investments in nation-building projects, and projects to improve and expand transportation, housing, hospitals, recreational and cultural facilities.

It requires a system of economic planning in the interests of people, along with the nationalisation of certain monopoly interests.

- A shorter work week with the same take-home pay.

New technological inventions have to improve life for people. Scientific and technological progress has to be a boon for all the people, not merely for increasing monopoly's profits.

- controls over the new technology to benefit people.



There is a closure of some business or another almost daily. The mass introduction of new technology in capitalist rationalisation creates a surplus of workers which the new manufacturing companies cannot absorb, making a high rate of unemployment a permanent feature of modern capitalism.

At the same time the governments are outdoing each other to set up and re-establish small businesses in order to keep their votes.

- protection of purchasing power and social gains. Expand spending for people's needs.

- new expanded trade policies, particularly with socialist countries.

- put monopoly under control by curbing their political and economic power, through nationalisation, and the establishment of strict government controls over international trade, commerce, the export and import of capital, etc.

People are suffering from one-way austerity: governments adopt plans in the sole interest of the big capitalist companies to the detriment of people's living conditions.

WHAT HAS TO BE SAID IS THAT EVERY WORKING MAN AND WOMAN IS ENTITLED TO A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING--AND IT TAKES TRADE UNION RATES OF PAY TO PROVIDE IT--AND THAT WHEN THE BOSSES FORCE PEOPLE TO LIVE ON OR CLOSE TO THE MINIMUM WAGE THEY ARE BEING FORCED TO EXIST IN POVERTY.

The right to a decent standard of living is being denied to working people by the American and Canadian monopoly interests who are not

Unions urge better use of technology

ENERGY trade union representatives from nineteen European unions, East and West, have called for new technology to be tamed.

At a conference in Moscow they agreed that effective technology in the coal industry, the use of non-conventional energy sources and the nuclear power industry open up new horizons in the field of energy.

The new developments, however, also have their disadvantages, including the upset in the ecological balance, a tendency towards monotonous work, and increasing stress on key personnel.

Massive replacements of many by machines hold the greatest danger. Those who took part in the conference estimated that the introduction of robots, new production processes and so on will reduce the workforce at electricity plants in Europe by as much as 50

It is therefore vital, the delegates said, to tame the new technology.

With this aim in mind the conference adopted a series of demands:

- *Flexible professional training systems, accessible to all, which correspond to modern requirements.*

- *The right of all, irrespective of age, to receive free general and vocational training.*

- *Healthy and safe working conditions, turning labour into a source of material and moral satisfaction.*

- *Control over how management observes existing legislation in training and labour protection.*

- *Information from management on the development of production and the introduction of new technology*



satisfied with the ordinary profit rate but want excess profits.

There are wrong notions about rates of pay. Average weekly wages and salaries at \$398.79 per week in 1984 are only up by about 2% over 1983, less than half the annual rate of inflation.

The attitude of capitalist politicians and employers is revealed in the statement made by the Ontario Minister of Labour, Russell Ramsay, who said that the lay off of 1,600 workers by Simpsons was not as tragic as other lay offs because they were "secondary" wage earners (that is, women!).

The unemployment rate is highest among women and youth.

The grim facts of life are mirrored in the following figures (Ontario).

Between 1979 and 1980 family incomes went up by 40%--but the cost of heating oil went up by 130%, the cost of gasoline doubled, and the

Arthur Hanlon, Ford Motor's vice president for industrial relations, went so far as to say that paid holidays is another form of absenteeism!

Somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of the unemployed is made up from the ranks of youth, and each worker looking for a job is on his own, competing for jobs with other unemployed workers, and that's the way the bosses want it.

Almost all Native People are without work.

The majority of students face a future without a job after graduation.

Every economic indicator points to continuing unemployment.

LABOUR'S TASKS

Of course no political party can avoid advancing a program of some sort. It is usually in the vaguest and most general terms.

BUT WHERE IS LABOUR'S PROGRAM OF ALL-round development under public ownership and trade which will create permanent jobs, keep wages up and guarantee decent conditions of life and work to all working people?

THE ORGANIZED LABOUR MOVEMENT DOES NOT HAVE THE TASK OF FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE MONOPOLIES--SOLUTIONS TO MAKE THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM WORK FOR THE CAPITALISTS. THE LABOUR MOVEMENT HAS THE TASK OF PROPOSING WAYS OUT OF CAPITALIST CRISIS WHICH ARE IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE.

It has to be a program which will serve the needs of the people by overcoming the crisis in the most effective way.

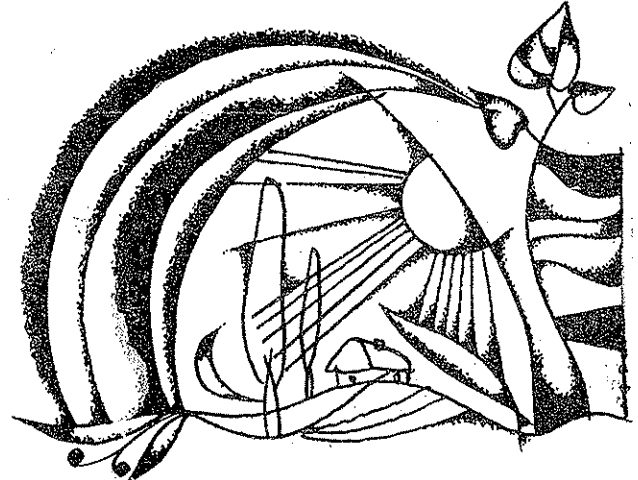
All of the problems the workers face today will continue after the ballots are counted, and it will take mass actions to attempt to force anti-monopoly people's policies on the newly elected government.

Basic socio-economic reforms are needed--reforms which guarantee everyone access to high quality jobs, the shorter work week, and which ensure that the benefits of technology accrue to the people--

reforms which curb the great political and economic power of the monopolies.

There have to be reforms which give the right to a complete education to everyone, which establish equality for women and which end racist practices.

DEVELOP CANADA FOR HER PEOPLE



At the heart of a program for the nation-building industrial development of Canada is a national energy program.

Power engineering is a key factor in economic growth and the provision of work.

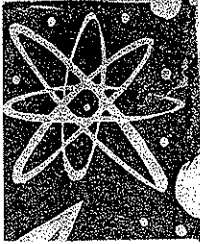
Canada has a vast, untapped power potential.

Power should be developed as close as possible to where raw materials exist. Despite the sale to U.S. monopoly of the ownership of much of Canada's natural resources reserves and the threat to whatever remains, still enough remains in Canadian hands to make this a realistic possibility.

New horizons in energy are opened by the application of effective technology in the use of coal to develop power and by the development of non-conventional energy sources and the nuclear power industry.

Coal can be processed to obtain high caloric solid and liquid fuel as well as many chemicals and primary products almost without ecological damage.

Power plants can be built where natural gas is plentiful.



The use of water-generated power can produce much cheap power and, at the same time, can be combined with a scheme to provide the needs of water hungry parts of the prairies.

(The U.S. is after Canadian water because 90% of theirs is polluted)

There is room for the development of solar, geothermal and wind power, as well as tidal power.

An integrated power grid linking all of Canada should be built. Super long-distance high-voltage power transmission lines are a practical possibility.

In the whole area of power generation there is room for considerable fruitful cooperation with the Soviet Union. The USSR has developed the world's first super-high voltage lines--1,150 kilovolt AC and 1,500 kilovolt DC lines which can carry from four to six million kilowatts --and the Soviets claim that they can increase that load.

Such developments, as well as providing a cheap power base for industrial development can, at the same time, make electricity cheaper to all homes.

Such vast nation-building schemes as this would quickly contribute towards eliminating all unemployment and would raise the level of skills required by the labour force.

POWER DEVELOPMENT VERSUS WAR SPENDING

Enormous sums of capital are needed for such projects. Since they are so vast that they will not be completed under many tens of years, capital can easily be found. It relates to the question of how Canada spends the money it takes from the people in taxes.

Will it be spent in providing the things Canadians need or will it be wasted on useless and insane war preparations?

Canada now spends approximately \$8-billion a year on war. In the average four-year term of office of a government that amounts to \$32-billion--in ten years it amounts to \$80-billion--and for a long-term, twenty year development scheme it would provide \$160-billion.

What a demand for skilled labour all of that capital would create!

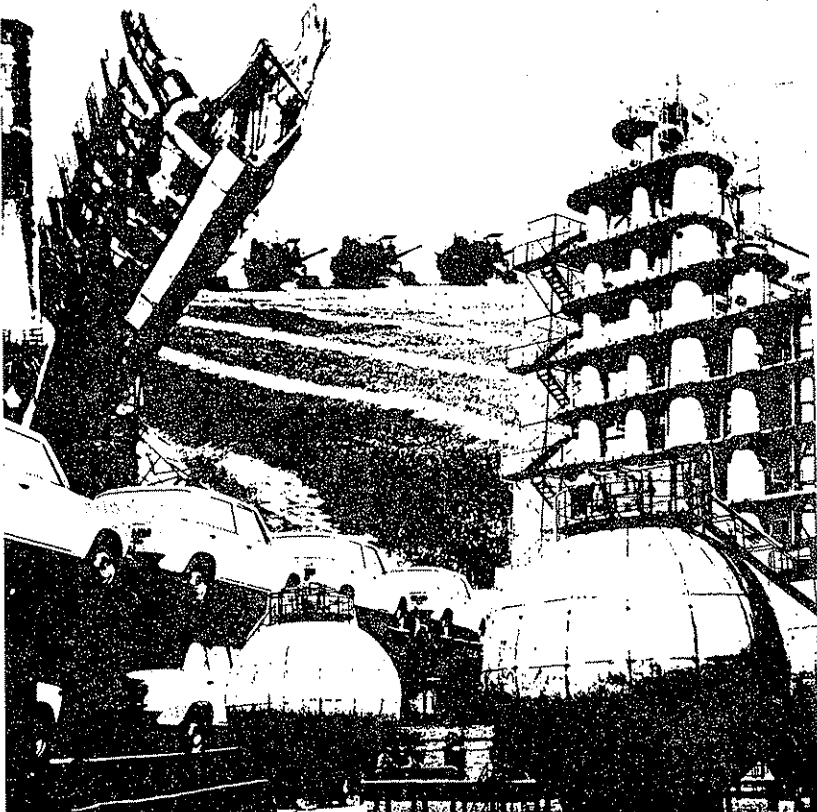
Scientists believe that the depletion of natural fuels will usher in the nuclear electro-chemical era. Giant nuclear plants will produce energy to break down sea water into hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen will then be pumped to users. Hydrogen provides eight times more energy than the same amount of petroleum and doesn't pollute. It is self-replenishable and limitless because after reacting with atmospheric oxygen it becomes water again.

When hydrogen is produced from sea water it can be pumped to users. To pump hydrogen a distance of 500 to 600 kilometres is ten times LESS expensive than to feed electricity using power transmission lines.

Of course capitalists who have invested and get their super-profits from oil resist these developments as the devil resists water.

CANADA HAS A RICH POWER POTENTIAL

Nuclear fuel has a high degree of



energy-production capacity. It is a time to tame the new technology.

The general attacks on nuclear power are a hinderance to Canada's all-round economic development. Nuclear power that is safe and economical can be developed under public ownership with strict and enforceable safeguards in place.

Canada has an abundance of hydraulic power resources, the most of it undeveloped.

There is no reason for a single Canadian willing and able to work to be unemployed.

Not only is there an urgent need in Canada for more homes, schools, and other facilities, but also two thirds of the world's peoples live in countries which are modernising their economies and want help to do it. All are beckoning markets for Canadian-made products--or for products which could be made in Canada.

NEW FRONTIERS

Such a development would open new frontiers for the people, specially for the youth.

In the USSR the entire north--Siberia--has become a bee-hive of activity. They are building new railroads, roads, waterways, cities, schools, research institutes, power and energy stations, mines. Its like a fairy tale come true hastening the day of the establishment of Communism--from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.

The development of Siberia and the Far

East of the USSR has particularly involved Soviet youth who are modern-day pioneers in the development of the northern and eastern parts of the Soviet Union. The average age in many of the new settlements is 30 years. Siberia has become a land of new challenge, opportunity and fulfil-

ment for the young people of the Soviet Union, calling on all their talents and skills. This is real, living romance.

Canada's north begs for research and development, an irresistable challenge to Canadian youth.

The development of Canada's north can bring a new and fulfilling life to the northern peoples who will retain their traditions, who must have political responsibility for those areas; who will use their own language and who must be employed in all new ventures in every range of endeavour.

This must be their legal right despite the fact that the premiers of the provinces rejected Prime Minister Trudeau's proposal to entrench self-government for the aboriginal peoples subject to Ottawa's authority, and the right to education in their own language in the constitution.

THERE ARE NO NEW AND BOLD PERSPECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH NOR ANYWHERE ELSE HELD OUT FOR YOUNG CANADIANS.

Instead, the Canadian economy suffers from general stagnation.

IT WILL TAKE A MILITANT CAMPAIGN BY THE RANK-AND-FILE OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT TO WIN PROGRAMS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE FROM WHICHEVER PARTY IS ELECTED.

WESTERN CANADA'S PROBLEMS

Turner's crusade of the "New Liberalism" which he asserts is the answer to all of the problems of the West are additional attempts to confuse the real issues which do face the people of Western Canada.

The problem and its solution isn't whether or not the Liberals can make gains in the West but what the next government will do to develop the enormous potential of Western Canada and provide jobs, security and a decent standard of living for the people living there--at the same time improving its agricultural potential.

Insofar as workers and farmers are concerned Western problems are no different than Eastern problems.



Drawing by A. Hely

It is so much media hype to say that the problems of prairie farmers and workers differ from the problems of Eastern farmers and workers.

Tory and Liberal talk about Western Canadian problems, couched in terms designed to disguise the fact that they are discussing how the Imperial Oil in the first place, and other powerful Western interests, will make more profits (get a better deal). The wellbeing of working people doesn't figure in their thinking except as a political consideration to catch votes.

The Tories and Liberals try to put over the idea that jobs and the problems of living in the West are dependent on giving more tax breaks and allowing higher prices to the big oil, rail and chemical companies.

ARMS SPENDING STEALS FROM THE PEOPLE

The \$8-billion a year budget on arms costs every living Canadian \$1,333. every four years.

Its elimination could cut the taxes of a family of four by \$1,200 a year. (per person \$300)

One-half of the money spent on arms would pay for double-tracking the CPR in BC with \$16-billion left over. The Crow Rate could be left in place and a small part of the remaining \$16-billion could be used to cover the differential.

Ten percent of the arms budget would underwrite the losses claimed by the railroads for transporting grain under the Crow Agreement.

Cutting the arms budget by only one-third would make it possible to pay the 500,000 unemployed youth \$20,000 a year while they go to school.

The total war budget would build over one million homes of various sorts in four years--and not a penny more in taxation.

In four years it could wipe out the national debt.

POLLUTION--DISGRACE AND DISASTER

The money spent on war would go a long way towards cleaning up the problems created by industrial pollution.

Pollution poses a growing menace to people's health.

Most drinking water is poisonous. The air is filled with poison. Refuse and sewage is dumped into lakes and rivers in vast quantities. Herbicides and pesticides do major harm everywhere.

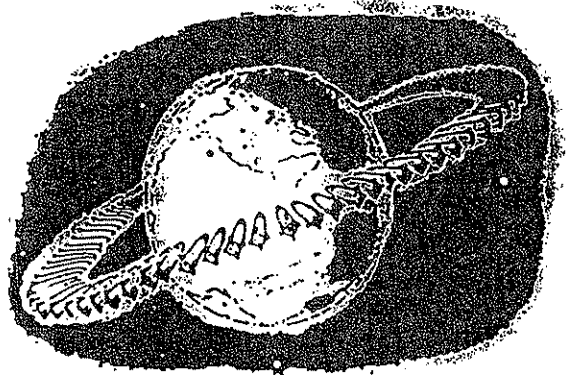
Business concerns are the main polluters. They will use every trick in the books to avoid paying for the damage they cause.

And they will keep on polluting unless they are forced to stop.

The business mind can only be understood by relating the problems of pollution at home with what United States did to Vietnam.

The actions of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam are as bad or worse than its dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Washington poured rivers of chemical



**Withdraw New US Missiles
from Western Europe**

toxins on Vietnam, on its people and their environment, a flood of poisonous chemical which has claimed the lives of millions of Vietnamese. They deliberately destroyed more than 40% of Vietnam's farmland as well as mangrove and other forests.

In taking that action Washington stepped across the line that distinguishes decent human behaviour from fascist inhumanity.

MONOPOLY'S GOALS STAND IN THE WAY

Why doesn't monopoly do these things?

Because monopoly operates not only for profits but also for high, maximum rates of profits--not for the benefits to people. There is NO business concern under capitalism that was established for the purpose of creating work for people. Their goal is profit and yet more profit.

Monopoly sees more profit in doing what it is doing now, especially in producing for war, than in providing the things people need.

THE ECONOMY

While military budgets are increased, the industries which could create jobs suffer from a severe lack of investment or are simply not developed.

The problem is compounded by high interest rates because the monopolies will not invest under high interest rates and because they have little or no confidence in the so-called economic upswing which is creating such a stir in the media during the election.

TRADE WITH SOCIALISM MEANS JOBS

TRADE WITH THE NEWLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MEANS JOBS.

The NDP and bourgeois reformers represented in the House of Commons--even the realists--have failed to understand and draw necessary conclusions from the fact that the course of world development is exactly opposite to what Washington projects.

Canada-USA economic integration has

hampered Canada's all-round, independent development and has denied access to a considerable range of skilled jobs to young Canadians. By linking Canada to Washington's star the government of Canada has frustrated the planned and independent development of Canada's truly vast and promising potential for providing a better life for all people.

Along with that there is a sharply increased competition in international markets.

Many people are convinced that Washington's schemes for world domination are succeeding when the opposite is true. The false notion of American success is also fed by the residual benefits which come from selling the OWNERSHIP of Canadian resources to U.S. monopolies, a factor that has maintained an appearance of prosperity over the past forty years --an appearance that is fading fast but which Mulroney would like to extend and perpetuate (witness Mulroney's kow towing to Reagan in Washington).

It is particularly hard for the labour movement to expose the falsity of the idea of prosperity through the loss of economic independence when it appeared to be working up to now.

The monopoly controlled media floods Canadians with made-in-washington propaganda designed to conceal the remarkable successes achieved by the peoples of the Socialist world.

Yet the truth is available to every politician, to every news reporter interested in discovering the truth.

The successes of socialism indicates its capacity to effectively solve social, economic and international problems. The socialist countries have achieved outstanding results in the economy, culture, education and health care, and in providing favourable conditions for the flourishing of the individual.

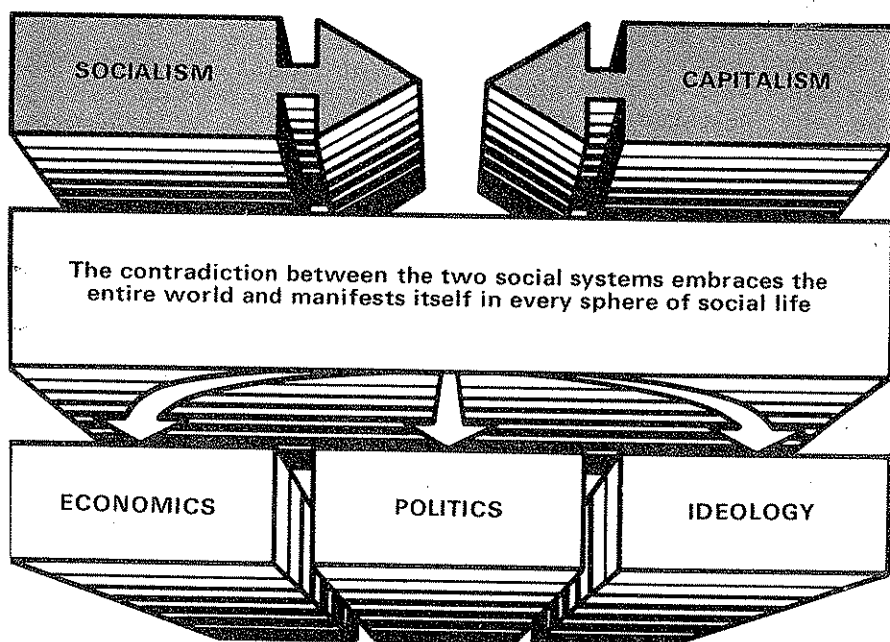
Their successes prove the reliability of the socialist system and its superiority over capitalism.

The achievements of socialism exert a great, positive influence on world events.

The failure of the NDP leadership, which includes the NDP trade union leaders, to adopt policies which reflect the real shape of the world and accounts for most of the confusion and divisions which is tearing the NDP apart

The speed with which the NDP jumps on "popular" bandwagons--such as the phony KAL South Korean Liner incident--unfortunately prevents the NDP from becoming a real alternative to the old-line parties.

THE MAIN CONTRADICTION OF TODAY IS THAT BETWEEN THE TWO OPPOSING SOCIAL SYSTEMS:



The fact is that the world is split into two civilisations.

The old colonial system has collapsed and will not be resurrected again. Therein lies Washington's desperation. Socialism is chalking up unprecedented successes and is challenging capitalism in all fields of human endeavour, already ahead in many.

The change in the balance of forces in the world in favour of socialism presents the western capitalist countries with either the choice of adopting policies based on peaceful cooperation with socialism, or policies of extreme rivalry, proscription and hostility--and ultimately a planet-destroying nuclear war.

Only peaceful cooperation in a world at peace provides hope and promise for

the future.

Despite the revival of the Cold War by the conservative reaction's darling, Ronald Reagan, and his impossible but dangerous attempt to regain U.S. imperialism's dominant world position, trade has developed between the west and the socialist countries, Cultural, sports and scientific exchanges have taken place--all of which has benefitted Canada as much as the socialist countries.

The ruling circles of the USA are breaching existing agreements, organizing trade, credit and technical blockades--and resort to all sorts of pressures, even using food as a weapon in their war against socialism.

Their aim is to destroy socialism while simultaneously weakening their capitalist rivals, to seize markets from their "allies" and punish those business concerns who continue to do business with socialism.

The domination of Canada's economic and political life by American monopoly capital limits attempts by the Canadian government to find new markets abroad.

The experiences of the 1970s when the Cold War thawed shows that economic relations with the socialist countries contributes to protecting Canadian jobs, creates new jobs at a time when there is an alarming growth of unemployment and, above all else, opens the door to policies which can make Canada truly independent and free of U.S. monopoly domination.

EVERY BILLION DOLLARS of GOODS EXPORTED TO THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES CREATES FROM 40,000 to 70,000 NEW JOBS.

The USSR's foreign trade grew by 6% to 127.5-billion rubles in 1983 (\$1.65 in Canadian funds buys one ruble). The USSR does business with 116 nations and its business with western European countries is growing. Their trade covers a vast range of goods--machinery, equipment, metal, cellulose, paper, food, chemicals, and so on.

Soviet trade is booming. East-West

While seeking presidency, Ronald Reagan promised the American people economic prosperity and restoration of the country's former might. Today the USA is farther from these goals than ever before: a nearly insuperable economic crisis and a record number of jobless since the war, instead of prosperity, and a new round of the arms race and senseless waste of means and resources, instead of national security.

economic cooperation guarantees from 2.2 to 2.5 million jobs in the OECD countries at the beginning of the 1930s and if jobs linked to sub-contracting are also taken into account, this figure stands at between 4 and 4.5 million jobs.

In Western Europe alone two million workers directly benefit from trade cooperation with the USSR, including 600,000 workers employed by approximately 1,600 West German companies.

These figures show that Washington's attempts to cut off economic, scientific and technical relations between East and West are against the interests of all working people everywhere.

A number of Canadian businessmen also see the benefits of developing trade with the USSR and have been doing so.

Revival of the Cold War threatens these promising and peaceful processes.

The anti-Communist crusade of the Reagan administration has struck a chord of fear in the Left, stampeding some NDP MPs onto the capitalist bandwagon.

That's what anti-Communism and anti-Sovietism is intended to do.

Anti-Communism and anti-labour are two sides of the same coin. You can't have one without the other.

Trade with the Third World countries holds great promise. The developing countries need technology and other assistance to develop their economies. Canada's trade in animals, breeding stock and seed, and in providing training indicates the great possibilities of this market.

Newly developing countries are in need of technology, machinery and equipment, hospitals and schools, geological exploration, power development, mining, agricultural technology, land amelioration, irrigation, chemicals, fishing, transport, glass, textiles and fertilizers.

WHY THEN ARE CANADIANS UNEMPLOYED?

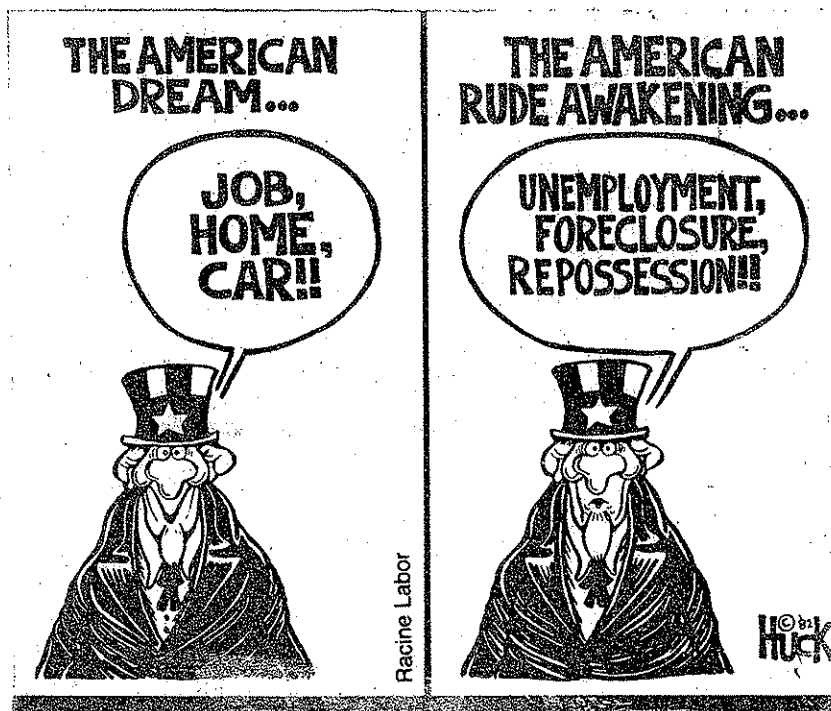
Despite the many blocs the imperialists have knocked together, such as NATO and EEC, fierce economic rivalry between the capitalist countries is mounting.

The struggle for power between the big imperialist countries increases in intensity. The proportional share of the world

production of goods and services by the U.S.A. has been steadily declining, and the share of Japan and West Germany have made big advances.

On its part the USA uses muscle to whip its NATO allies into line. High interest rates are part of the extreme pressure being brought to bear by American imperialism as a means of bringing debtors to their knees.

The USA uses high interest rates as a means of pumping money out of Latin America--and Canada--as a means of reducing its \$200-billion deficit, chiefly caused by its huge arms spending.



"Soaring military budgets and economic warfare against socialist countries hurts the capitalist countries more than their intended victims."

U.S. high interest rates are a form of double taxation on Canadian incomes imposed by Washington and Ottawa.

WHERE DO THE TURNERS, MULRONEYS AND BROADBENTS STAND ON THESE QUESTIONS

Getting rid of Trudeau indicated the growth of moves in the Liberal Party to shift toward closer cooperation with United States imperialism. What we can expect if the Tories win the elections is already revealed by Mulroneys undignified and shameful performance, totally lacking in national pride.

In camera negotiations have been going on between Canada and the USA on "free trade". The Liberal cabinet previously declared Canada to be "part of a North American regional market and thus partners with a very significant player" and called on Canada to take advantage of its partnership and to forge even closer ties with the USA.

The Minister of State for International trade, Gerald Regan, and U.S.A. representative William Brock, discussed these questions and have stated that they will concentrate on four areas of free trade: steel, mass transit vehicles, agricultural equipment and information.

Some Canadian businessmen think in simple terms that the USA will provide a big market for their goods. However, in adopting free trade, they open Canada to further penetration and US domination in which most businessmen and all Canadians will be the losers.

Canada is already saddled with an auto pact which

chiefly benefits the USA--and unsettled fisheries and acid rain dispute--as well as an Alaska Pipe Line that never was.

But the push for free trade comes from men like Roland Frazee, chairman of the Royal Bank, who wants free trade in computer services; and Pierre Lortee, president of the Montreal Stock Exchange who said, "We should aim at total integration. Our governments may lose some of their discretionary powers but Canada as a whole will gain. The time has come to consider the North American option." (Not underlined in the original)

Lortee's statement underlines the fact that Canadian big business, along with its representatives in parliament, have lost all capacity to speak for Canadian interests and, in this era of history, the task of voicing the interests of the whole nation falls on the shoulders of the working-class.

Canadian steel companies are threatened with embargoes of exports to the U.S. The United States wants to cut the Canadian content in manufactured goods and to manufacture them entirely from U.S. steel. Up to now Canada has been selling steel to the U.S.A. and buying it back in the form of manufactured goods--a form of exporting Canadian skilled jobs.

If Frazee and Lortee have their way Canadians will be turned into second class American citizens.

The U.S.A. goal: destroy and weaken all rivals, overcome them by force and dominate them; cross swords with socialism

'LOST POSSIBILITIES'

The world spends 410,000 million dollars a year on armaments.
The cost of a military aircraft, even an obsolete one, is enough to feed 1,000 children for a year.
One thousand schools could be run with the money that goes into a modern aircraft-carrier (about 12-13 million dollars).
Altogether 1,500 million children suffer from environmental pollution, infections, malnutrition and even hunger.
Half a million scientists are working in different countries throughout the world to improve weaponry.
Altogether 70 per cent of all appropriations for research programmes are used for military research.
Today the world keeps under arms 25 million people and uses over 55 per cent of its raw materials for their upkeep.

(Statistics from UNESCO's peace forum in Paris)

and destroy it forever.

There is an illusion as to the permanency of the U.S. domination of the capitalist world which arises because international events and major changes in world relationships take place somewhat slowly in a historical sense; and because the USA remains a powerful imperialist country, the major economic force in the capitalist world.

The USA is still the centre of scientific and technical progress and is the leading supplier of food to the world market.

It is in this complicated situation that the elections are taking place.

The old line political parties are trying to take advantage of the fears, conflicts and changes.

ANYTHING BUT THE ISSUES

There is a vagueness in what each party says it will do. The vagueness in the positions of the old line parties reveals not the lack of a program for business, but the lack of a program for people.

The words of Shimon Peres expresses this exactly: "Events are doing our work for us and there is no reason for us to get controversial. Too much action and excitement can only hurt us and we're sitting very pretty as things are now."

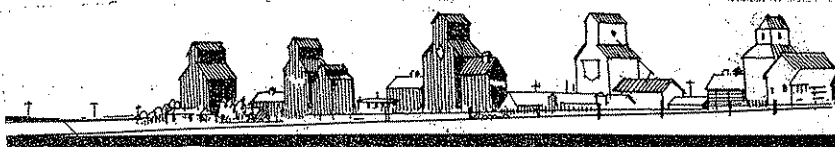
In plain words, ride to victory on the crest of a wave of anger against the incumbent government and the lack of promises is an assurance that the performance of the new government will differ little from the last.

AGRICULTURE -- IN DIRE NEED

A critical situation exists with Canadian agriculture, wiping out for many farmers the myths of abundant riches held out for them by bourgeois economists.

All of the problems of the farmers have worsened under the effects of capitalist crisis.

So grave are the economic problems that Canadian farmers urgently need an emergency



farm program to put all farm debt on hold to subsidize high interest rates, and arrange special government loans, to prevent foreclosures on land and machinery, and provide a minimum annual income to keep the farmers in business.

While a growing number of farmers face bankruptcy and a great mass of farmers are in need of urgent aid, the food industries; the oil and chemical companies, the railways--all are chalking up huge profits.

In 1983 Loblaws made profits of \$42,047,000 and Safeways of \$77,299,000--while farmer's debt and marketing problems grew with a falling share of the food dollar and rising costs of production.

Forecasts for this year are that farm incomes will decline by anywhere from 3.5 to 5 percent, and costs of production will rise by 6.5 percent and more.

FARMERS DO NOT NEED GIMMICKY PROPOSALS

Farmers need long-range economic agricultural planning which would encourage the all-rounded development of Canada's agricultural potential, combined with a system of parity prices, nationalisation of the big monopolies, and subsidies.

The fact that has to be faced is that Senator Hazen Argue was right (in spite of the heavy media-led attack on him) when he said that Canadians had to buy more made-in-the-USSR goods if they want to sell more grain to that country. That's one of the facts of life.



WOMEN, THE ELECTIONS AND
THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

The right to work is the most fundamental right needed by women to gain their economic independence. It should be guaranteed in law along with an end to all discrimination because of age, race, nationality, religion, politics or trade union affiliation.

The first prerequisite for equality for women is economic freedom--access to any job at the same rates of pay as men, an end to unemployment, and special laws to protect the family to deal with domestic matters and children.

As controversial as many other questions are, the foregoing is fundamental.

All jobs, without exception, should be open to women, including positions of high responsibility, access to vocational training, etc.

Legal recognition and application in practice of the principle of equal work for equal pay is essential because the number of women in the work force continues to grow, but wages lag far behind.

Women still experience discrimination. They are the first to be fired, earn less for the same work, and have limited chances of procuring certain kinds of jobs.

Women now play a significant role in the unions, in the fight for peace, and are militant participants in the fight-back against monopoly.

Equal rights for women and the fight for peace go hand-in-hand.

The more spent on arms, the less spent on social budgets.

The more spent on arms, the higher the tax load on the family.



DECLARATION WITHOUT WORDS

— drawing around 1900

The more spent on arms, the less for day care.

The more spent on arms, the less housing and higher the rent.

A modern tank costs as much as seven hospitals.

A single bomber would provide housing from five to seven thousand people.

Women working part time should be accorded all economic and social rights guaranteed to full-time workers.



General and vocational training should be available to all women.

Reduction of hours on any job where health is a risk with full pay.

Protection of women from pressure, blackmail and other sanctions by foremen and bosses.

Protection from redundancy as a result of automation and electronics.

Create conditions to enable women to combine family and job commitments-- protection during pregnancy and after the child is born, with a guaranteed right to return to the same job after a period of 18 weeks.

Working women can expect and it should be a demand that the trade union movement will set up working groups and committees to deal with the problems of working women; and which will assist in combatting the prejudice against women in society by re-educating male workers out of their ideas of supremacy.



YOUTH -- A CHALLENGING AND REWARDING LIFE

Capitalist crisis has made the problems of unemployment, education and vocational training more difficult.

Youth are condemned to live in poverty, suffer from malnutrition, and are denied the right to a fulfilling life which taxes all of their abilities.

The policies and strategies of governments to restrict the numbers of jobs and to reduce people's living standards adds to the problems faced by youth.

Youth are the victims of unfair employment practices. The big shots use high levels of unemployment to knock down wages and divide the working youth.

The minimum wage is under heavy attack in order to bring all wages tumbling down.

The interests of young workers are the interests of the working-class who also must struggle for better living and working conditions and jobs.

Working youth especially need national policies which will accelerate the expansion of productive employment and training programs related to employment prospects.

In this election campaign a youth program must include,

1. The right to a useful, secure and creative job as part of Canada's industrial policy.

An industrial policy which will answer people's needs for education, health, culture, public transport, leisure, community facilities, housing--and which will clean up the environment.

2. Put an end to all overtime.

3. Every unemployed person willing and able to work, without a job, should have the right to a minimum income equal to the income he would earn if working.

4. Equality of opportunity in education and training.

5. A shorter work week with the same take home pay.



THE UNITED STATES SYSTEMATICALLY OPPOSES ALL PEACE PROPOSALS

Banning Nuclear Weapons Only Hope for Humanity

It is a task second to none to make the issue of peace a major part of the election campaign.

The world is at a serious historical juncture when the question of what direction international developments will take is to the forefront--even if the leaders of the two old line parties say nothing about it.

A further deterioration in international relations means that we can slide towards a nuclear catastrophe. If we are strong enough to reverse this trend, it will be possible to breath new life into detente and a future of peace.

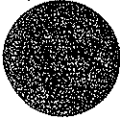
It is not only through huge rallies, meetings, collections of signatures, peace marches and camps, that the anti-war movement expresses itself. The peace movement is also reflected in the positions the various political parties take, even though the party leaders speak in generalities. Those candidates who don't say what they will do before they are elected certainly won't do anything after they are elected.

The elections provide an excellent opportunity to help the people to more profoundly understand the character and size of the war threat, to see where it is coming from and can help to unite and mobilise even larger numbers of people in the struggle for peace.

People are being misled by reaction as to the source of the danger of a thermonuclear war by the myth of a Soviet war threat. Misleading ideas are circulated that both superpowers are to blame for the arms race.

It is the aggressive quarters of U.S. imperialism and NATO who are responsible for the present suicidal direction of international events.

They are counting on force of arms in their bid to halt social progress and to again run the world as they please. They suppress movements for national liberation and set themselves the impossible task of destroying socialism.



Human memory,
so far as suffering is concerned,
is amazingly short.

Its ability to imagine hardships
that have yet to occur
is perhaps even more modest.
It would seem that the worldwide
horrors of the 1940s
are forgotten.

Yesterday's rain doesn't wet us,
many say.

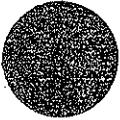
Yet no one will convince me
that it is hopeless to advocate
reason against irrationality.

Let us repeat this saying
a thousand times so that
it is not expressed once less
often than necessary!

Let us repeat the warning even
if it tastes like ashes
in our mouths!

Mankind is threatened
by wars compared to which those
of the past were
only measly attempts,
and they will surely come about
if the hands of those who are
preparing them quite publicly
are not broken.

BERTOLT BRECHT
speech for peace, 1952



"Our supreme moral task now is to face and solve the problem of nuclear arms, the threat of holocaust, and the problem of creative dialogue on the basis of co-existence between governments and peoples of different social systems. This is the way to save civilization."

A warning must be sounded that the arms race and military technology has reached a point when any opportunity to conclude an agreement based on mutual control will be seriously undermined or even lost.

It may reach a point that makes a war inevitable.

While it is a fact that the danger of war has grown, the mass forces capable of preventing it have grown as well.

This mass struggle for peace represents the hope of humankind.

The United States will spend, during the next five years, two trillion dollars on war. The ravenous appetite of the "merchants of death" calls for ever greater efforts to frustrate their war-making plans.

Two trillion dollars spent on armaments represents nearly a trillion dollars in profits to the biggest monopolies. This is what makes them, along with the media that they own, such formidable adversaries.

Confrontation with the socialist world and, incidentally, with each other, has become a major source of high profits for a handful of monopoly concerns, most of them transnationals. Indeed the "Christian mission" to end Communism forever proclaimed by Ronald Reagan is anything but spiritual. It provides for the super-enrichment of the most aggressive forces of monopoly.

The arms race imposes a heavy burden on the whole economy, squanders natural resources and is the most unproductive form of investment, which causes the numbers of jobless to increase.

The spiralling arms race diverts capital needed to develop Canada's productive potential, to develop scientific

knowledge as well as the intellectual and creative force of all Canadians.

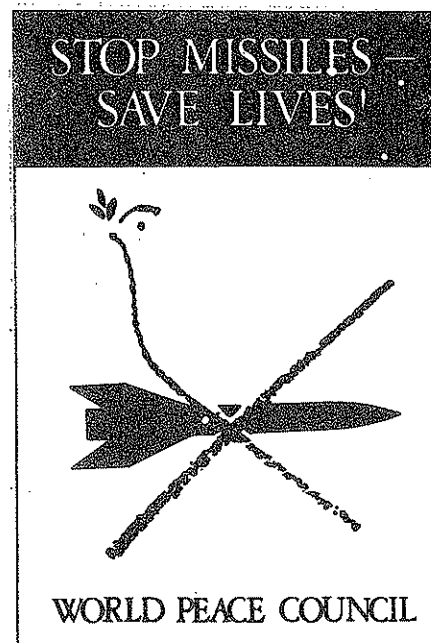
Two trillion dollars would make a mountain of thousand dollar bills 134-miles high, dwarfing Mount Everest.

Peaceful and friendly cooperation between the peoples of the world would eliminate the terrible threat of nuclear war and, also, it would ensure the best conditions to overcome the ecological, energy, raw material, demographic, food and other crises which have assumed global dimensions.

The choice is to either preserve life on earth, to create conditions for the continuation and thriving of human beings, or to wipe out everything--even the fact that life ever existed on earth.

This problem poses itself just when the truly enormous scientific and technological attainments of mankind and his social progress have made possible, for the first time, a rational transformation of man's life, the harnessing of the forces of nature on a new scale and in new forms, and the actual transformation of humankind's future history into a sensibly controlled process providing a good life and happiness to all.

Disarmament and the conversion of war industries to production for people's



Poster by the World Peace Council.

**"We will eradicate Marxism
from the roots up..."**

Adolf Hitler (1933)

**"We will not bother
to denounce Communism,
we will simply eliminate it..."**

Ronald Reagan (1981)

needs makes it possible to increase the number of jobs, to curb inflation and to increase people's purchasing power.

TODAY FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY ARE THE
DOMINANT EMOTIONS FELT BY MOST PEOPLE

FEAR of not getting a job or fear of losing one's job

FEAR of atomic war

FEAR of tomorrow

FEAR of losing one's home, one's possessions

Anti-Sovietism and anti-Communism play on fear, create it. Anti-Sovietism and anti-Communism are the cornerstones of the policies which brought about the Second World War and which are being used by Ronald Reagan to justify the deployment of new missiles in Europe.

It is a Big Fear used to generate Big Money for the Military Industrial Complex of the United States.

People are afraid of the arms race which has no rational justification but which, nevertheless, gains momentum, pushed on by U.S. imperialism and its wish to dominate the world.

There are still too many politicians who do not understand that, in the nuclear age, it is

dangerous to think in terms of holy crusades and wars, whether they be Cold, psychological or all-out. Some politicians like to contemplate strange, even barbaric possibilities in the form of "first strike" and knock out blow concepts.

The great paradox of our time is that war is unthinkable, insanely suicidal-- BUT ALSO POSSIBLE.

The realities of the nuclear age give people only one choice: it dictates that the competition and rivalry of the two main social systems--capitalism and socialism--should, on no account, assume military forms. It is an objective reality which asserts itself regardless of individual opinions about the merits of socialism and capitalism. Emotions, likes and dislikes, are not the deciding factors in this question.

Washington's claim that it needs more weapons in the name of security is sheer fiction.

More weapons on one side, or a change

Since 1945, using different pretexts, the USA has forced the arms build up on the entire world. It has taken the lead in producing increasingly sophisticated weapons of mass destruction and has consistently ignored proposals to ban these arms. With each successive spiral of the arms build up the Soviet Union has been obliged to catch up.

The USSR has proposed . . .

- To regard the prevention of nuclear war as the main objective of foreign policy.
- To renounce propaganda for any variation of nuclear war.
- To undertake never to be the first to use nuclear weapons (a pledge already made by the USSR).
- To pledge never to use nuclear weapons against countries which have no such weapons on their territory (a pledge already made by the USSR).
- To respect the status of existing nuclear-free zones and encourage the establishment of new ones.
- To prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- To agree not to deploy nuclear weapons on the territories of countries where there are no such weapons at present.
- To agree not to spread the nuclear arms race to outer space.
- To press for the step-by-step reduction in nuclear arms — on the basis of equal security — up to their complete elimination.

in their quality, automatically brings about a response from the other side AND IT ALWAYS RESULTS IN LESS SECURITY FOR EVERYONE.

The deployment of new weapons in Europe by the United States has not brought security for anyone.

No one country can achieve security for itself at the expense of other countries in the atomic age, a fact which makes the principle of equality and equal security for everyone the overriding one.

Parity is equality, but it is not identity. It is this truth that the negotiators and statesmen of the U.S. --and Canada--try to hide from the people, especially when one side is an avowed aggressor and the other is on the defensive.

Each country chooses the weapons it feels are the most suited to its needs. While each side has the whole range of weapons, the separate components are different. About 80% of the Soviet

Union's forces are land-based whereas nearly 90% of the United States' force is based under water, on water and in the air.

However, regardless of these differences there is a rough parity today.

The proposals being made by the USA, regardless of what, and no matter how they describe them, are efforts to secure advantages for itself and to upset parity in its favour.

Generally speaking, the proposals the statesmen of the USSR have made to resolve these problems are deliberately kept hidden from Canadians in an effort to make the Soviets look like the "bad guys" and the Americans look like the "good guys."

The Soviet Union warned the countries of NATO six months before the USA began to deploy new missiles that it would take timely and effective counter measures.

The Soviet government said that it was prepared to and would prefer to reach agreement to reduce nuclear weapons stockpiles honestly and equally. NATO's Williamsburg meeting rejected this.

The mass anti-missile manifestations taking place among the peoples of Europe is a new, higher stage in the peace movement against nuclear war--unprecedented in history.

Despite Ronald Reagan's orders that the west must embark on a holy crusade against Communism, most members of the peace movement are convinced that there is no such thing as a Christian bomb, and they believe that Christianity and peace are synonymous, not the other way round.

The struggle for peace as the most pressing and universal task should take a prominent place in the elections.

"WE ARE NOT IMPOSING OUR WORLD OUTLOOK AND OUR SOCIAL SYSTEM UPON ANYONE, NOR DO WE NEED OTHER PEOPLE'S LANDS, THE SOVIET UNION SINCERELY SUGGESTS THE ONE AND ONLY WAY: THE WAY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION."

(From the speech by Konstantin Chernenko on April 29, 1984)

Making the peace issue part of the election campaign also helps to keep before people the lessons of history and, to the degree that the struggle is advanced, it counters anti-Communist hysteria and helps to prevent people from being stamped into

"The peace movement, which has now spread with unprecedented force to many countries and peoples, is not a campaign which will peter out as spontaneously as it arose with the disappearance of the ominous shadow of war. It is an irreversible process of the social awakening and spiritual revival of the masses."

supporting president Reagan's apocalyptic crusade.

It is important to use EVERY avenue to oppose the use of nuclear weapons and if the peace movement STICKS to that task and mobilises the maximum number of potential forces for peace, nuclear war will be averted.

THE STARTING POINT IN THE FEDERAL elections is that it is imperative to win a foreign policy the basis of which is world peace. A peaceful foreign policy is founded on the concept that only peace can ensure the security of Canada and its people.

The new government would have the task of reviving mutually beneficial contacts in the economy, culture, science and in all other spheres with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

Because curbing the arms race and disarmament is the key to peace and international security the government would declare Canada a nuclear weapons free zone and would end the testing of all weapons systems, all weapons, and all chemicals and bacteriological substances designed for use in war, on Canadian soil.

Canada would agree to a no-first strike pledge because any use of nuclear weapons is criminally insane.

Canada would call for a freeze of all stockpiles of nuclear weapons and for dismantling existing stockpiles; and would call for the immediate withdrawal of new missiles in Europe.

Canada would establish its norms for working with all other countries on the following principles,

1. The prevention of a nuclear war is the prime aim of Canada's foreign policy.
2. Canada will hold consultations at all levels of government on all questions.
3. Renounce any propaganda in support of nuclear war, and prohibit such propaganda in

the media.

4. Call on all nuclear powers to pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

5. Work for agreements to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in any form; no transfer of nuclear weapons or control over them to any other country; no deployment in territories where there are no such weapons; no nuclear weapons in outer space.

THE NEW PERIL

The exploration of outer space brings solutions to many urgent problems of science and philosophy. It represents the pride and glory of humankind.

But the U.S. government is already carrying out measures preparing for space warfare.

This is why Washington rejects the Soviet proposal to forbid the stationing of any kinds of weapons in space. The USA has set up a special Space Command.

Great efforts are being made in the USA to develop laser and ray weapons for space. The Shuttle is being used to work out answers to these particular projects --and the need is to demand that Canada stop its cooperation on this new and fearsome project.

WHEN WILL IT BE TOO LATE?

The USSR is pressing for negotiations to prevent outer space from being used

for war because arming outer space is a step towards the inevitability of war and makes peace negotiations more complicated.

Once the USA begins testing its anti-satellite weapons it will be too late to solve the problem because the USA will have laid the basis for the militarisation of space, and the threshold to preserve peace will have been lowered even more. Even knocking out a single satellite could then be the cause of pushing the nuclear button.

That is why talks are so vital, uncluttered by the pre-conditions the US government has raised.

Candidates should be asked straightforward questions which establish without question where the candidate stands. Will the candidate work for a step-by-step reduction of nuclear armaments with the goal of finally eliminating them? Will the candidate demand that Canada's UN representative stops voting with the USA and votes for disarmament measures?

The political Right Wing have always used the "foreign enemy" ruse, the "red scare", as a substitute for taking action on the problems which bring daily hardships to millions of people.

Through their control over the mass media, reaction engenders fatalism, social pessimism and passivity, arouses passions and hatred of other peoples--all as a means of diverting attention away from the real issues.

This is the essence of the so-called "conservative wave" now sweeping the West.

In the final analysis the problem of war and peace is a good test for ascertaining a candidate's true adherence to democracy and human rights, because the right to life--to a good life--is everyone's right.

The elections provide an opportunity to show the consequences of a nuclear war, to combat efforts to split and weaken the unity of the anti-war movement, and to show that it is the same monopoly forces who back the arms race that are responsible for mass unemployment.

DISINHERITED FOR LIFE

His Indian name is Gwarth-ee-Lass. He is from the Ojibwa and Dakota tribes who have been herded into the Turtle Mountain and Fort Totten reservations in North Dakota. Now 39, he has spent the last eight years behind bars.

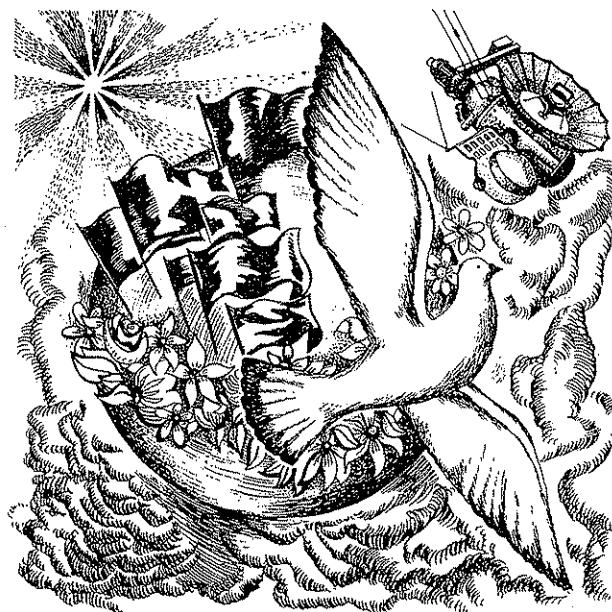
Leonard Peltier, one of the leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM), tried to get the U.S. Administration to observe its treaties with the Indian tribes and return unlawfully annexed lands, including the Dakota tribes' holy Black Hills, inside which, to their misfortune, are mineral deposits.

By faking up arms against Big Business, Peltier found himself black-listed by the FBI as a "dissident." In 1976 he was framed on a charge of complicity in murder and was jailed. Ever since he has been in jail with two life sentences. The judicial verdict was based primarily on the evidence of one Myrtle Poor Bear, whom the FBI forced to perjure herself by threatening to make away with her little girl. Though later she dared to tell the judges about that, they viewed her objection as "irrelevant." Peltier was put into prison, where the authorities even tried to get him killed. This last spring, in protest against the inhumane treatment of prisoners, Peltier went on a nearly two-months-long hunger strike, which again drew attention to the struggle that America's indigenous population are waging for the land that really belongs to them, for the restoration of traditional native forms of political organization, for their own culture, language and way of life.

Can that be termed "dissidence"? Yes, say Reagan and his Administration. White House policy vis-à-vis the country's indigenous population is sheer discrimination. With every year less is allocated for Indian needs while reservation land is further pruned. Unemployment levels there are upwards of 90 per cent. Hospitals and schools there are closing down. As a result, Indians are fleeing to urban slums, but this does not bring relief. Some die through the intolerable conditions, others, who, like Peltier, fight back, are incarcerated. Not forgetting to mention human rights, though.

A. NATAROV

NEW TIMES



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