

to campus politics

by
Mike Walker



COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA
PARTI COMMUNISTE DU CANADA

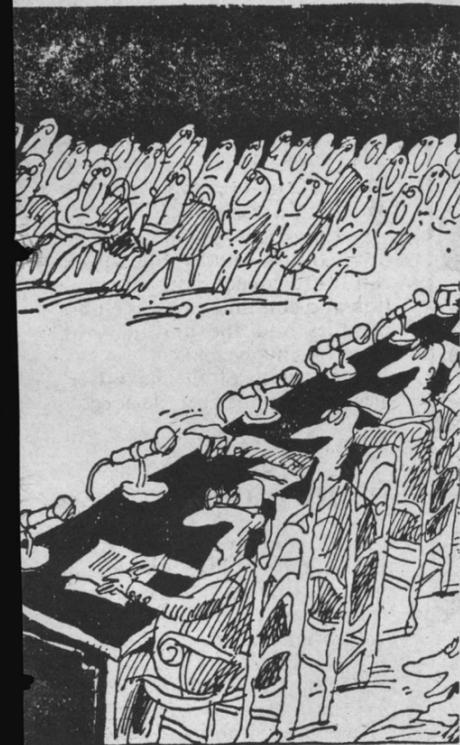
Chile. It would nationalize banks, major resources and industries, and foreign capital, according to the leaflet. The party hopes this would be possible without war, says Cariou, but the people must be prepared to fight to wrest power from the capitalists.

When questioned about the possibility of American intervention to protect the interests of US capitalists, Cariou says he doesn't think the American people would allow interference by their government. Nonetheless, he says, "if we are to achieve change, there has to be a certain amount of risk involved." In this situation he sees at least a possibility of calling on the other socialist countries, including the Soviet Union, for military assistance.

Alone among the revolutionaries, the CP endorses the Soviet Union as the world's "most advanced socialist state," according to Cariou. Some of the other communists are fond of calling the Communist Party the "Moscow Communists."

The Communist Party of Canada operates a book table every Friday in SUB. Anyone interested in talking to the CP should drop by and talk. The party office is at #1 9642 Jasper Avenue (422-4797). City organizer Kimball Cariou can be reached at 439-2301.

The Angela Davis Club will hold a meeting in SUB 142 on Thursday, October 4 at 12:30 p.m. Students interested in the CP are invited to attend.



students a chance to get involved in the political process and the Conservative Party.

She says the organization presents students with a "golden opportunity" to get a start in politics. She points out that a number of current MLAs are former members of the Young PCs.

Since there is no U of A organization now, Koop suggests that any students interested in joining the PCs contact the party office at 429-2721.

Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)

The Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) advocates violent revolution of the workers against the ruling class as the only route to a true socialist state. All the activities of the Marxist-Leninists are directed toward the revolution.

Most other leftist groups cite higher funding and abolition of tuition fees as students' issues. The Marxist-Leninists are more ambitious. Member Doug Hanson says although "students are interested in ideas and learning, in fact the university is a factory turning out instruments of production." According to Hanson, the university serves the rich.

This, the M-Ls say, is the central issue today: like the university, society's institutions serve the rich. Their solution; nationalization and central planning. According to a statement released June 4, 1979, by the party, one of its goals is "to ensure the planned, all-sided development of the economy for the benefit of the people."

According to Hanson, the Marxist-Leninists point to Joseph Stalin as a model for strong leadership. The party's June 4 statement says "all traitors to the country and those who have committed crimes against the people" would be punished and "provided with no rights whatsoever" under the M-Ls program.

In the M-Ls' Canada, the statement says, a "popular government where those who are the producers of the wealth will be the masters of the wealth" will administer the state. Officials would be elected by secret ballot and held strictly accountable to the people. The judicial system would likewise be replaced by elected judges and officials. All officials would be paid workmen's wages.

Revolutionary Workers League

The Revolutionary Workers League is the Canadian section of the Fourth International, founded by Leon Trotsky when he was exiled from the Soviet Union in 1938. The Fourth International and the RWL stress the international nature of the struggle against capitalism. All the work of the RWL is performed in the context of the world revolution.

According to member Andrea Waywanko, the RWL's work on campus is twofold. First, the party backs students in their struggles against cutbacks in housing and funding and supports foreign students. Second, it works to educate students in the principles of Marxism and to organize them into part of the socialist vanguard.

This reflects the RWL's general work. According to the league's statement of principles, the RWL realizes that the majority of the population is not yet ready for revolution. So in the short run, the party promotes a transitional program based on the "objective needs of the masses and their present level of consciousness."

Waywanko explains that this means a "united front" with other groups such as the Communist Party, women and labor unions to effect change on issues of agreement. She stresses that this approach does not force any group to accept the doctrine of another or to dilute its own.

According to the statement of principles, this united struggle to better the working class will "lead the masses to understand the necessity to destroy the bourgeois state."

Once the masses understand this necessity, the RWL believes they will revolt. But the revolution can succeed, according to the statement of principles, "only through the active participation of the overwhelming majority of the

**THE
ONLY SOLUTION
TO THE CRISIS:
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The June 4 statement adds that all foreign property in Canada would be expropriated, all foreign debt and consumer debt to financial institutions declared void, and all foreign capital shut out of Canada.

The party no longer supports the Soviet Union. After the death of Stalin, Hanson claims that a new ruling class arose in the USSR. He says the M-Ls now label the USSR a social-imperialist state, little different from the USA. The party once supported China, but has reversed that policy since the death of Mao Tse-Tung. Hanson says new revolutions are needed in both states to re-establish communism. The only state now endorsed by the M-Ls is Albania,

which enjoys a high profile in current party publications.

The party slogan "make the rich pay" indicates the degree of compromise acceptable to the Marxist-Leninists. They are often characterized by members of other communist parties as "violent people." The M-Ls in turn have no use for the other communists: Hanson labels Communist Party members "conscious pro-imperialists."

Hanson says the party is not interested in casual members, but wants members dedicated to the revolution. Anyone wanting to talk to the CPC(M-L) can find a member at the party's book table in SUB on intermittent Fridays.

population." The RWL rejects "all militarist, putschist, and terrorist illusions." Waywanko says the "revolution is a thing of the people rather than the party."

To defeat the bourgeois state, its institutions must be thrown down, says the statement of principles, since they are its principal defence. The state would be governed, according to the RWL policy, by democratically-elected councils rather than the present administrative bureaucracy, judiciary and police.

The RWL considers its struggle within Canada to be just part of the world struggle against capitalism, though. The party declares solidarity with many revolutionary groups around the world, even though they may not wholly share its ideology. Recent examples are the HKS, the Iranian

socialist party, and the FSLN, victors in the Nicaraguan revolution.

After the revolution in Canada, Waywanko foresees the Canadian socialist state assisting other socialist revolutions. According to the statement of principles, the "proletariat must ... begin to build socialism in ... existing states. But the construction of socialism can be completed only on a world scale."

Waywanko makes it clear that this doesn't mean interference in the affairs of other states. She says that if a revolutionary movement in another country were to ask for support, the Canadian state would assist, but until support was requested the revolution of that country would remain an internal matter.

The RWL has an office and bookstore at 10815B Whyte Avenue. Interested people can stop in and talk, or call the office at 432-7358.



Members of the RWL lead a march protesting the unfair treatment of Parkland workers.