

FIGHT FOR NEW ELECTIONS

The resignation of Nixon and the rapid emergence of Gerald Ford as President and the most rapacious of imperialists, Nelson Rockefeller, as Vice President of the new "unity" government has been pronounced a great victory for "democracy and the American way" by both Nixon's supporters and his so-called critics. But the "agony" of Watergate is not behind us! Even the pretense of an election was ignored. The working class cannot sit back and allow the wheels of fascism to crush one democratic right after another. The demand for the immediate removal from office of these fascists and for new elections can and must be the rallying point in the shops, in the neighborhoods and in the mass organizations. The working class cannot wait for the heels of fascism to stir us to action; the battle for new elections - that is our immediate call!

Gerald Ford, the hand picked replacement of the corrupted, exposed, and politically isolated Nixon regime has now assumed office. Nixon's past record of appointments can at least match Hitler's worst rogue's gallery. Ford, in his own words, is " beholden to none". But no matter how much Ford plays the role of the "honest man", his actions in less than one month in office

show that we now have a President with a free hand to step up the fascist offensive. The new president has a "mandate" from the USNA imperialists to break the back of the angry spontaneous movement of the working class in order to prepare for imperialist war.

Nixon's "critics" find no fault with Ford's avowed conservatism. He has a 25 year congressional record of anti-working class votes. He helped engineer the Nixon ploy to stack the Supreme Court with avowed fascists, including the abortive attempts to install as Chief Justice those fascist paragons, Carswell and Hain'sworth. The leaders of the impeachment movement find no cause for alarm in Ford's record of opposing integration.

They find no fault with Ford's decision to retain many of Nixon's closest aides who have direct ties with not only the military, but direct ties with the imperialists themselves.

Judging from the flurry of activity in the White House these days, it is becoming increasingly clear that our new "Mr. Clean" is quickly trying to clean up the

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mess that the imperialists find themselves in. Faced with a spontaneous upsurge of the working class that has brought the largest strike wave in 25 years, it is of utmost importance to the imperialists to have a president who can act free from the taint of the exposed and isolated Nixon regime. He, unlike Nixon, has been able to use the cover of the "honeymoon" of a "new" government to call together not only the financiers, but also the big labor lieutenants, such as, Meany, Abel, Woodcock and Fitzsimmons, to "all work together" toward the building of a fascist front to mislead and snuff out the rising militancy of the working class.

Ford has already taken steps to reintroduce the hated wage-price freeze. While Ford is officially "protesting" against the wage-price freeze, he is "allowing" the fascist labor lieutenants to "talk" him into taking "emergency action" to fight rising prices. But from our past experience we know that wage-price controls only freeze wages, while prices continue to rise.

Under the guise of fighting inflation, the new president has promised to cut federal spending. He made it clear that the cuts would not be in defense, where nearly \$100 billion is being spent to uphold the USNA military stranglehold over its colonies and prepare for war with the other imperialist powers. No, our new president upheld Nixon's last act of vetoing money for welfare, poverty programs, environmental cleanup, and aid to the elderly. In criticizing big government spending, other than for the military, Ford made it perfectly clear that he would continue the Nixon work of slowly but surely cutting out the billions spent on "beneficial programs".

And to add insult to injury, Ford has now proposed a new excise tax on gasoline of 10¢ per gallon.

With an almost identical statement to those of the new premiers of France, Britain and West Germany, Ford told us to tighten our belts and get ready for war. The liberation struggles of the Vietnamese, the Pilipinos, the Koreans, etc. are demanding the "reintroduction" of USNA troops. While praising the Nixon years as a time of "peace", Ford blatantly warned the world of the important lesson that detente is preparation for imperialist war. He stated in his address to Congress, "A strong defense is the surest way to peace. Strength makes detente attainable. Weakness invites war, as my generation knows from four bitter experiences. Just as America's will for peace is second to none, so will America's strength be second to none." (1)

The appointment of Rockefeller as our new "peoples"

Vice President even more openly exposes the true aims of this "new" government. His appointment is the biggest step taken towards fascism so far. Rockefeller represents the most bloodthirsty of the imperialists. The wealth of the Rockefellers is so great that it is impossible to estimate how vast the Rockefeller empire is throughout the world. Through the Chase Manhattan Bank and interlocking directorates, they control oil, cattle, coal, timber, railroads, etc. from Argentina to Alaska and from the Middle East to Southeast Asia. Nelson Rockefeller has maintained a personal political interest in Latin America, having traveled there many times as a "goodwill ambassador" of the USNA while overseeing his estates. The bourgeois press said that Latin Americans are overjoyed at the appointment of Rockefeller. But they can only be talking about the Latin American compradors. We remember that on Rockefeller's last trip, at every stop he made he was confronted with angry mobs who jeered and threw stones at him.

The appointment of Rockefeller signals the direct involvement of big USNA finance capitalists within the government. Rather than allow henchmen and flunkies to take care of business for them, the situation at home and abroad has grown so precarious that the imperialists themselves must move to directly handle the state apparatus. With this appointment, one wonders who is actually the President and who is actually the Vice President?!

This whole chain of events finds the leadership of the CPUSA "caught between a rock and a hard place". On the one hand, they have to support detente because of their ties with the CPSU and this means supporting the pro-detente forces within the USNA government. On the other hand, the anger of the working class at the corruption and bankruptcy of the government means the CPUSA leadership must also be against the same forces they are supposed to support. This left Gus Hall and crew holding the bag as Nixon and now Ford support detente. Throughout the whole Watergate period they had to walk a tightrope - one day praising Nixon for his foreign policy with respect to the Soviet Union and the next day, making wishy-washy comments on Nixon's corruptness. From this we know what to expect from the leadership of the CPUSA as regards Ford! They must praise him for keeping the foreign policy of detente, but as each step towards fascism is instituted through this "new" government, they will be unable to say much of anything.

And what have been their comments on this "new" government, but to hope it leads to a "people's front". Gus Hall stated, "This can be a new beginning if it results in a new unity, a unity of all democratic forces, a unity of all working class forces, a unity of the racially oppressed, a unity

of peace forces and a unity of the young generation." (2) But where will a people's front lead if it is not under the leadership of the united front of the working class and its advanced detachment, a Marxist-Leninist Communist Party? As Gus Hall makes clear, it will lead right into the arms of this "new" government and the horrors of fascism.

We are on the eve of the formation of a real communist party to lead the working class into battle against its class enemy. The coming period will test the Communist's ability to go deep into the class, and organize the vanguard elements directly into the fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat. This cannot be done by quoting abstract theory at the factory gate. No, every upsurge, every manifestation of tyranny and oppression must be used not only to expose the nature of the class system but to imbue the working class with the ideals of socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat as the only solution to the rapidly increasing misery and death at the hands of imperialism.

The immediate defense of the working class against the rapidly building fascist menace must be the formation of the united front of the working class against fascism. This united front cannot be built out of thin air, but must be formed under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist party, and out of the concrete struggles to defend the class against the attacks of the imperialists.

It is clear that the Ford-Rockefeller government has been formed to further attack the working class. We must meet this attack on our democratic rights with the battle cry for new elections. Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution allows for the election of a new president after a resignation, death, etc. But the right of election was not even given to the first 13 states 200 years ago as George Washington and his vice president were not elected, but were appointed by Congress. And since that time, the right to vote has really always been a sham as the electoral college actually chooses the highest officers of our country. Now, even the pretense of voting privileges has been taken away.

As Communists, we must use the call for new elections to enter the parliamentary struggle - not to work for bourgeois political ends, but to use it as a platform to expose bourgeois government for what it is - corrupt, degenerate and against the working class. As Lenin made clear, "As long as we Communists are unable to take over state power and hold elections, with working people alone voting for their Soviets against the bourgeoisie; as long as the bourgeoisie exercise state power and call upon the different classes of the population to take part in

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the elections, we are in duty bound to take part in the elections with the purpose of conducting agitation among all working people, not only among the proletarians. As long as the bourgeois parliament remains a means of duping the workers, and phrases about "democracy" are used to cover up financial swindling and every kind of bribery..., we Communists are in duty bound to be in this very institution (which is supposed to express the people's will but actually covers up the deception of the people by the wealthy), to untiringly expose this deception.... It is in parliament that the relations between bourgeois parties and groups manifest themselves most frequently and reflect the relations between all the classes of bourgeois society. That is why it is in the bourgeois par-

liament, from within it, that we Communists must tell the people the truth about the relation between classes and parties, and the attitude of the landowners to the farm labourers, of the rich peasants to the poor peasants, of big capital to employees and petty proprietors, etc."(3)

The battle for new elections is certainly not an end in itself, but a way to expose the revisionists, a way to expose bourgeois government and the treacherous aims of USNA imperialism, and a way to build a strong defense against fascism. Every shop meeting, every union hall, block organization, community group and PTA can be not only our forum, but the nucleus of our strength. We must not use the battle for reforms as a dead-end road, but as Lenin said, "... they can

our very own, as we consolidate our ranks in party building. We cherish their legacy, as we, armed with the science of Marxism-Leninism, heighten the assault on oppression and exploitation, by undertaking the task of organizing and enlightening the class which will once and for all vanquish the reign of capital.

Regional Autonomy for the Indian Peoples!

1) Lenin, "The Right of Nations to Self Determination", Selections from VI Lenin and JV Stalin on National Colonial Question, Calcutta Book House, 1970, p. 23.

serve to develop the political consciousness of the masses, to raise them to a higher political level, to organize them, not for the sake of philistine happiness, or for the sake of 'tranquility', 'order' and 'peaceful (bourgeois bliss,' but for the struggle, the struggle for

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the complete emancipation of labour from all exploitation and all oppression."(4)

1) Chicago Tribune, 8/13/74.

2) Daily World, 8/9/74.

3) Lenin, "Letter to the Austrian Communists", Party Work in the Masses, Prog. Pub., 1969, pp. 142-143.

4) Lenin, "The Attitude of Parties to the Duma Election", Op. Cit., p. 39.