Elections Strengthen Bourgeois Dictatorship in USNA

The election of Richard Nixon to a second term as President has been called a landslide victory for his policies, a vote for peace. Not surprisingly the Soviet social-imperialists have hailed Nixon's election saying it strengthens the prospects of world peace. The questions we must ask are 1) what does the re-election of Nixon signify and 2) what should be the position of the revolutionary proletariat.

The re-election of Nixon marks a triumph of the USNA Imperialists. Their international collusion has certainly strengthened their position. The recent elections offer a domestic parallel. The process of reorganisation of the government, of the courts, the increasing attacks on governmental social services linked with the general repressive climate, show that the capitalist class is saying that they intend to drive the workers, they cannot afford class struggle at home and therefore they intend to one, tighten up the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and two, are quite willing to share the crumbs with a large section of the population in return for endorsement of imperialist aggression.

In doing this the bourgeois news services have made much to do about the Nixon "landslide", but when we examine the figures we see that out of the 140 million eligible voters, little more than half voted. The 46 million votes for Nixon represent about 29% of the possible voters.

Yet the Imperialists are striving to utilise this "landslide" as a cover for their policies and without a revolutionary party of the proletariat this sham is largely unimportant. On one hand this 46 million votes is far from a mandate of the people, it does not express a clear backward and fairly organized section of all classes which endorse and profit from the imperialist subjugation of the colonial and semi-colonial world.

This is indeed a contradictory and extremely difficult situation, and the masses of proletarians are left only with the illusions from the bourgeoisie. These facts of life only further record the wretchedness of the Communist Party USA, that the complete subversion to the bourgeoisie has seriously hamstring the proletariat. The CPUSA twisted two basic policies of Leninism in their position on the elections in order to make Leninism acceptable to the bourgeoisie. On the one hand the CPUSA fiddles while the bourgeoisie and their elections formed a crucial part of the CPUSA program, but this program is in complete contradiction to the CPUSA program. Instead of using the elections to educate the masses (particularly as Lenin points out to educate the masses to scientific socialism and not to the facts of life of which they are already aware) they use them to gain political favors and "bits of power". Secondly, instead of plainly teaching that the revolution cannot be consumated in parliamentary reforms or through the state apparatus of the bourgeoisie the CPUSA attempts to gain a cabinet member or a "friend" in Washington as they had with Roosevelt. Sort of an inside man in the bourgeoisie who is burdened with the representation of the tolling strata. Such deception!

The CPUSA fiddles while the most counter-revolutionary alliances in history are invalidated. The ruling circles offer us Nixon or McGovern, the only difference being, would you like a kick or a punch in the stomach. Gus Hall is no alternative, third or otherwise. Gus Hall and the CPUSA are merely further spokesman of the ruling bourgeoisie and their election policies have greatly aided the bourgeoisie in consolidating their power i.e., the courts, the congress, etc. But only by abolishing these and the other parts of the state and building a new state power could the dictatorship of the proletariat could not be overthrown through the bourgeois apparatus of state power is, the congress, etc. But only by abolishing these and the other parts of the state and building a new state power which is to be in the hands of the proletariat, as an instrument of socialism, organize Socialism.

But we say on the basis of the teachings of Marx and the experience of the Russian revolution:

"The proletariat must first overthrow the bourgoisie and win for itself state power, and then use that state power, that is, the dictatorship of the proletariat, as an instrument of its class for the purpose of winning the sympathy of the majority of the toilers."

And further,

"It was this dialectics that the bourgeoisie, stick heads and pedants of the Second International could never understand; the proletariat cannot achieve this end. It does not win the majority of the population to its side, but to the contrary, to polling a majority of votes in an election under the rule of the bourgeoisie, or to make it the condition for obtaining supremacy, or else sheer deception of the workers. In order to win the majority of the population to its side, the proletariat must first of all, overthrow the bourgeoisie and seize state power; secondly it must introduce Soviet power and smash the old state apparatus to bits whereby it immediately under-

 mines the rule, prestige and influence of the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie over the non proletarian tolling masses." Lenin on Revolution, pgs. 35-37.

There is no wonder then that confusion in the working class abounds and the failure lies squarely at the feet of the CPUSA. Instead of using the elections to educate the masses (particularly as Lenin points out to educate the masses to scientific socialism and not to the facts of life of which they are already aware) they use them to gain political favors and "bits of power". Secondly, instead of plainly teaching that the revolution cannot be consumated in parliamentary reforms or through the state apparatus of the bourgeoisie the CPUSA attempts to gain a cabinet member or a "friend" in Washington as they had with Roosevelt. Sort of an inside man in the bourgeoisie who is burdened with the representation of the tolling strata. Such deception!

Statement From Venceremos On Communist League

Several months ago, a statement was circulated among organisations participating in the Third World Coalition (no longer in existence) in San Francisco. That statement was, essentially, a position on the Communist League. It stated that the Communist League was to be excluded from the Third World Coalition and listed a number of reasons. The name of Venceremos Organization was mistakenly placed on the list of organizations who were in support of the statement. Venceremos informed the Coalition to remove our name, but somehow this was not done.

We would like to make it publicly clear that we had neither have anything to do with that statement, or with any position on the Communist League to be friendly, and hopes that they continue to be so.