

CAPITALIST CRISIS BRING

Despite widespread talk of the President's impeachment or resignation, it now appears that the country's ruling circles are trying desperately to ease their way out of the present "crisis of leadership" by keeping Nixon in the White House.

Nixon himself has embarked on a nation-wide public relations drive aimed at picking up his dwindling poll ratings, which in the past few months have slipped lower than those of any president in history.

Calls for impeachment have come from the broadest sections of the labor movement and nearly every organized section of the civil rights, student and peace movements. Student demonstrations numbering in the tens of thousands of people have been held from Berkeley to Madison, demanding that Nixon be dumped.

Even in Macon, Georgia, where he went to find a base of new support, Nixon was met by hundreds of angry student demonstrators from Mercer University. Public reaction has been equally hostile to Nixon's efforts to build a "new image."

Despite pleas from reactionaries such as Senator Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz)—who called on people to "Cool it! ...in the name of reason, in the name of sanity, of justice and enlightenment, in the name of the great God above, for a moment of quiet thought and reflection." — the people, are in no mood to "cool it."

Senator Mike Mansfield (D. —Mont.), Senate Majority Leader, reported that mail was running "13 to one against the president," and Republican Congressman, Rep. Albert Quie of Minnesota, added that his mail was running 20 to one for impeachment.

DEEPENING CRISIS

The move for impeachment within the ruling class has been brought on by the deepening political and economic crisis which confronts U.S. imperialism at the present time. This crisis is characterized by worsening difficulties abroad, especially in the Middle East and Indochina, as well as economic chaos here at home.

Furthermore, the exposures of the Watergate bugging and widespread corruption throughout the upper levels of the administration have worsened the crisis of U.S. imperialism, and may have become the "straw that broke the camel's back" for Nixon and Agnew.

The call for impeachment was initially raised by powerful forces among the monopoly capitalists for several reasons, some of which include:

-Impeachment calls meant that other sections of the ruling class could try and channel the mass discontent among the people into a strictly legal, parliamentary campaign, which could whitewash the capitalist system by dumping Agnew, Nixon, and several of the administration's cohorts.

-Nixon had prematurely dropped the image of the capitalist "democracy" with his extralegal police state tactics, his bugging and disruption of the Democratic Party campaign and his efforts to centralize and consoli-

date extra-policing powers in his own hands. Nixon's fascist offensive was directed primarily at the labor movement, but it also hit out at Nixon's own capitalist political opponents. This offended forces such as the McGovern-Kennedy liberals as well as significant sections of the monopolists who had backed Nixon and got him the presidency.

What has become clear is that the very nature of capitalist political life gives rise to an array of contradictions among the various groups of capitalist blocs, syndicates, and industrial and financial groups over and above differences on this or that political issue. Individual maneuverings and power plays are as much a part of this system as the widespread corruption and bribery that was exposed during the Watergate hearings and Agnew investigations.

Faced with these growing contradictions, even Republican senators and congressmen are deserting the Nixon ship, and calling for either impeachment or resignation. Last month alone, Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts called for Nixon's resignation and Senator Peter Dominick of Colorado called on all-GOP legislators to declare their political independence; furthermore, the editors of Republican-owned Time magazine published an editorial for impeachment of the President.

These forces believe that impeachment proceedings will clear the air and restore "faith" in the U.S. political system which has suffered a serious loss of prestige around the world. In addition, all the important forces within the ruling class are unanimous in agreeing that this mess must be cleared up quickly so that the U.S. can regain its leading role in its contention with other imperialist powers.

Senator Hubert Humphrey stated the situation the capitalists are in quite clearly when he said, "The government is in disarray. We are going through a very dangerous period. The Soviets are probing now and beginning to put in their papers that the President may be impeached. I think they may be tempted again in the Middle East because we are in disarray."

It was Nixon's fear of the developing crisis that led him to initiate fascist measures prematurely, however these moves were met with widespread popular opposition, especially from working people, students, minorities, and influential sections of the ruling class itself.

(Fascism represents the general weakening of the monopolists to the point where the "orthodox" form of exercising their dictatorship over the people is no longer workable. They must drop their "cloak of democracy" and use "illegal" terrorist methods against the people.)

The efforts of Nixon and his regime to push fascism forward are most clearly seen, however, in his union-busting tactics and in his efforts, in conjunction with his labor lieutenants, like I.W. Abel and Frank Fitzsimmons, to outlaw the right to strike. This is the first step towards total destruction of the labor movement and towards giving the monopolies a free hand in running things.

GS IMPEACHMENT MOVES

While calling for impeachment, Nixon's fellow reactionaries in power and those in the leadership of the AFL-CIO have done so only to do a "cover-up" of their own. These critics of the Nixon regime may lash out at high-level corruption, but what they are trying to do is cover-up the reality that is the cause of the present crisis.

At the AFL-CIO convention, for instance, George Meany claimed that Nixon should resign or be impeached because he had "lost control of his senses" and was crazy. In essence, Meany was saying that U.S. monopoly capitalism would be better for everyone only if Nixon were to be replaced with someone less "crazy."

MEANY PROPS UP CAPITALISM

Much of the criticism directed against Nixon, however, is of a very dubious nature. Meany, for example, has also attacked the administration for its "soft" policies towards China and the Soviet Union. Meany, in the past, has been one of the President's chief supporters in the aggressive policies in Indochina and in the Middle East. By focusing attention on Nixon's "craziness" and on his alleged "soft stand" on communism, Meany helps maintain and prop up the capitalist system.

Corruption, aggression and exploitation, however, would continue regardless of which liberal or conservative occupies the White House. The fact is, that the policies of war, corruption, and misery are the policies of an imperialist ruling class regardless of whether Nixon is President or not.

This became evident during the recent Middle East War

when Nixon was called on to mobilize U.S. troops for a confrontation with the other superpower, the Soviet Union.

When Secretary of State Henry Kissinger held a press conference the following day to explain the situation, a newsman asked about Nixon's sanity. Kissinger's statement was very revealing: "I must say that all of the President's senior advisors, all the members of the National Security Council, were unanimous in their recommendations, as a result of a deliberation in which the President did not himself participate, and which he joined only after they had formed their judgement, that the measures taken, and he in fact ordered, were in the national interest."

In short, the aggressive and exploitative policies of the capitalist system are not simply a question of Nixon's state of mind, but rather are a product of the system itself and of the drives of the monopoly class.

Why, then, should we fight to get rid of Nixon?

Because it will serve to weaken the ability of the ruling class to unleash fascism; because it will intensify the contradictions in their ranks and because through the struggle, the people can learn to fight and organize to strengthen the united front against imperialism and fight against the fascist and aggressive policies of imperialism.

While dumping Nixon will not solve our problems, it will certainly be a great victory for us, and will put us in a better position to fight.