“Banner of civil war within the democracy,” he perceptively noted.

Only one Bolshevik in Lenin's defense, the great woman revolutionary Alexandra Kollontai.

The struggle to transform politically the Bolshevik party had begun.

In April 7, Pravda, the official party newspaper, published Lenin's famous "April Theses." On April 8 it printed a statement dissociating the party from its content.

Winning the Bolsheviks

When the All-Russian conference of the Bolsheviks convened April 24, Lenin was already in power, despite stiff resistance from Kamenev and Zinoviev.

How was Lenin able to achieve such a striking victory in his party in such a short time? He was the young, greatest authority in a party he had contributed so much to. But there was more involved.

The party had been built in bitter struggle against Menshevism and communism. And the worker's voice was the party's. And the worker's base of the party responded to Lenin. He vocalized their own class feelings, their own desires. They in turn were able to exert great influence on the leadership, espeically in such revolutionary times.

Without Lenin it is doubtful that the party could have changed its course so quickly and so dramatically. And Lenin, without the party, could well have been a man who knew what to do, but lacked the means to accomplish it. Lenin's political reemergence of the party was thus decisive for the course of the revolution.

Having reasserted the party, Lenin then proceeded to consolidate its winning over the masses. This required patience. The masses would have to learn the correctness of Lenin's policy before they would be won over.

Lenin Steffens gives one example of Lenin's efforts, repeated a thousand times, to convince the working class: "Comrades, the revolution is on."

The struggle to transform politically the Bolsheviks into a political party was a battle of wits between two men: The great man, Lenin, without the party, could well have been a man who knew what to do, but lacked the means to accomplish it. Lenin's political reemergence of the party was thus decisive for the course of the revolution.

The workers' revolution is on, and you are working. The workers' and peasants' revolutio that work, conditions; it does not mean idleness and leisure. This is the deal. The workers' revolution, a workers' government, means work, that all shall work; and you are not working. You are only talking.

"Oh, I can understand how you, the people of Russia, having been suppressed so long, should want, now that you have won power, to talk and to do nothing. But today stand up, you—you all—must go to work and do things, act, produce results—food and socialism.

"And I can understand how you lie and true your hope in Kerenski, just to get his help, his chance, to act. He means well, you say. He means socialism. But I warn you he will not be able to fulfill your wishes, to think that you want sociali he may mean socialism. But it is not meant, and he has begun to burn—'I tell you Kerenski is an intellectual, he not act; he can talk; he can't act. But, quietly again, 'you will not believe this yet. You will take time to give him time, and meanwhile, like all others, you will not work. Very, very, take your time.

"But—he flamed—when the hour strikes, when it comes, you will give yourselves to work and you want a government that will go to work and not sit there and talk socialism and mean socialism—when you want a government that will do socialism, then—come to the Bolsheviks."

They did.