

# Elections Strengthen Bourgeois Dictatorship in USNA

The election of Richard Nixon to a second term as President has been called a landslide, an overwhelming victory for his policies, a vote for peace. Not surprisingly the Soviet social-imperialists have hailed Nixon's election saying that 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 move to the right by the USNA imperialists. Their international collusion has certainly strengthened their international position and the recent elections offer a domestic parallel. The process of re-organization of the government, of the courts, the increasing attacks on governmental social services linked with the obvious increased bribery, show that the capitalist class is saying that they intend to drive for maximum profits, 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 140,000 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 utilize this "landslide" as complete endorsement of their policies and without a revolutionary party of the proletariat this sham is largely untested. While on one hand this 46 million votes is far from a "mandate of the people", it does represent a large 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 interpretations from the bourgeoisie. These facts of life only further record the wretchedness of the Communist Party USA, whose complete subservience to the bourgeois has seriously hamstrung 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. First, the CPUSA ran its own candidate Gus Hall, in name, while supporting the "left" imperialist candidate, McGovern. The strategy outlined by Hall himself was to "rip off" bits of political power, to influence McGovern to

the left, possibly to utilize the support of McGovern in the "anti-monopoly coalition". The elections formed a crucial part of the CPUSA program, but this program is in complete contradiction to Leninism. Lenin makes it clear that the communists, when unable to disband reactionary parliaments must participate in them, but for what reason, to educate the masses to the nature of bourgeois dictatorship, the need for socialist revolution and dictatorship of the proletariat. The attitude of Lenin was to utilize the reactionary parliaments to expose the reactionaries, not to beg concessions from them. Secondly, Lenin was quite clear on the fundamental content of bourgeois democracy, that is dictatorship of the bourgeois, and he was definite that the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie could not be overthrown through the bourgeois apparatus of state 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, the dictatorship of the proletariat. Lenin says on these questions,

"In mockery of the teachings of Marx, those gentlemen, the opportunists including the Kautskyites, 'teach' the people that: the proletariat must first win a majority by means of universal suffrage, then, on the basis of the voting of that majority, obtain state power, and only after that, on that basis of "consistent" (otherwise called "pure") democracy, 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 bourgeoisie 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 traitors, block heads and pedants of the Second International could never understand; the proletariat cannot achieve victory if it does not win the majority of the population to its side. But to limit that winning, to polling a majority of votes in an election under the rule of the bourgeoisie, or to make it the condition for it, is crass stupidity, or else sheer deception of the workers. In order to win the majority of the population to its side the proletariat must in the first place, 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 bourgeois compromisers over the non proletarian toiling masses." Lenin on Revisionism, pgs. 35-37.

There is no wonder then that confusion in the working class abounds and the fault 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 consummated 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 toiling strata. Such deception!

The CPUSA fiddles while the most counter-revolutionary alliance in history is being consolidated. The ruling circles offer us Nixon or McGovern, the only difference being, would you like a kick in the head or the stomach. Gus Hall is no alternative, third or otherwise. Gus Hall and the CPUSA are merely further spokesmen of the ruling bourgeoisie and their election policies have greatly aided the bourgeoisie in consolidating and disarming the proletariat within the USNA.

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## Statement From Venceremos On Communist League

Several months ago, a statement was circulated among organizations participating in the "Third World Coalition" (no longer in existence), based 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 nor have nothing to do with that statement, or with any position on the Communist League. Though we have had very little contact, we consider our relations with the Communist League to be friendly, and hope that they continue to be so.

Venceremos Central Committee.