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RESIST

*a call to resist
illegitimate authority*

26 June 1972 - 763 Massachusetts Avenue, #4, Cambridge, Mass. 02139 - Newsletter #63

LA LUTTE CONTINUE . . .

- Una Claffey

A junior executive arrived at the big General Motors plant in Ste. Therese yesterday and was stopped by picketing workers. 'No one goes in -- there's no work today', he was told. 'By what authority?' he asked through the car window. 'By the authority of the workers of Quebec' he was told. 'Move on.'

- The Toronto Globe and Mail 5/13/72

From May 10 to May 19 Quebec was gripped by the largest general strike in North American history. From Royn-Noranda near the Ontario border to the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence -- a distance of 15,000 miles -- workers emptied construction sites, schools, hospitals, mines and factories. They seized radio stations, broadcasting news of the spreading strike and revolutionary music. In Sept Isles after a bloody battle with police they controlled the town, in Rimouski they firebombed a provincial Cabinet Minister's home, in Quebec City they tied up the airport, and in Baie Comeau they firebombed a hydro-electric plant.

The immediate cause of the strike was the jailing of the three main leaders of Quebec's labor movement. Marcel Pepin of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), Louis Laberge of the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ), and Yvon Charbonneau of the Quebec Teachers' Corporation (CEQ) were jailed under the terms of the repressive Bill 19 passed by the provincial parliament to force back to work public service employees who had gone on strike in April.

The public service employees had struck in response to a call from the Common Front of the CSN, FTQ, and CEQ in the face of complete refusal of the government to seriously undertake bargaining on the wage and other demands of over 2,000 workers. The unions had demanded a 7% annual increase in wages and a \$100 a week minimum at the end of three years. Government offers at the beginning of the strike had been \$500 million less than the unions' proposals and by the breakdown of negotiations, after a week of strike, they were still \$140 million short. On April 21 Prime Minister Bourassa had had introduced and passed by the parliament Bill 19, which declared strikes in the public sector to be illegal until June 30, 1974, and provided for fines ranging from \$50 to \$250 a day for individual strikers disobeying the law and \$500 to \$50,000 a day for unions which fail to get their members back to work. The reaction of the Common Front was to call for defiance of the law. Yvon Charbonneau of the teachers' union described Bourassa's government as a 'puppet regime cut off from the population -- the valet of the capital it borrows in the US.' Stemming from this Laberge, Pepin and Charbonneau were given the maximum sentence of one year in jail for contempt. During their trial in Quebec City the courtroom was filled with helmeted riot police. In passing the sentence the judge declared that "any lighter sentence would not have fulfilled my duty as dictated by my conscience."

This strike comes at a point of increasing militancy on the part of the working class in Quebec. Since 1960, with the defeat of the National Union Party (which had ruled Quebec for decades) and the emergence of the Liberal Party, the contradictions in Quebec society have become clearer to most people. Quebec is an area ex-

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SABOTAGE AND BLOCKADES

- Andy Himes

A new weapon has appeared in the arsenal of the anti-war movement. Increasingly, people in many parts of the country have begun to use both public education campaigns and civil disobedience to blockade and interdict the supply lines of the U.S. murder machine in Indochina.

Despite the recent dramatic successes of the liberation movement in Vietnam which freed large parts of 6 coastal provinces from American control and set back the genocidal "pacification" program several years, the situation of the Vietnamese people is still desperate. Figures released by the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees on June 19th show that more civilians are now dying throughout Indochina than at any previous time in the war. On June 20th, the Boston Globe revealed that daily bomb tonnage over North Vietnam is up 100% since January, and is as high as any other time in the war.

Again the destruction has been escalated. Accordingly, people have escalated their tactics to stop it.

On May 30, several C-130 US Air Force transport planes were made unusable as they sat on a runway at Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Pennsylvania. The Citizen's Committee to Interdict War Materiel said in a statement, "We have carefully chosen ways which endanger no-one for grounding these planes -- in contrast to the murder of hundreds of people each day by the Nixon administration in its desperate attempts to impose the Thieu government on the people of South Vietnam. Certain electrical, hydraulic, and mechanical components of these war transport planes have been removed..."

"If we had not acted now, these planes would have continued to supply the US war machine which is devastating Indochina. We know well that the effects of this action are limited -- the war, devastation, and injustice persist. But we will continue to work with many people, in diverse types of actions, not only to impede the US war against Indochina, but to build a more just and humane society."

The next day, in Bangor, Washington, the freighter Mohawk broke a weeklong blockade by 25 anti-war protestors, and steamed out of the harbor carrying a load of munitions for Vietnam. The protestors, calling themselves the "People's Blockade," had been camping on Hood Canal for several days. Equipped with a fleet of small boats, they had successfully blocked the canal until the morning of May 31st. When they decamped for a few hours, planning to return in time for the rescheduled sailing of the vessel, military authorities seized the opportunity to rush the ship from its mooring, and on its way to Southeast Asia. Two high-powered speedboats accompanied the freighter on its passage through the canal. They were sent along to create a wake large enough to capsize any small boats which might venture into the waterway. The demonstrators stated that they were trying non-violently to block ammunition shipments from Bangor, and that they seek support in order to cease all ammunition shipments from American ports.

The most sustained action of this kind began on April 23 at the Earle Naval Ammunition Depot at Leonardo, N.J. The land and sea block-

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LA LUTTE Cont'd. . . .

son of English origin earns more than his French counterpart with an equal level of education and competence. Although the French compose more than three-quarters of the work force, reports have shown that 81% of those earning more than \$10,000 are of English origin. The privileged status of the English language and the colonial rule of the English minority also pervades the educational sphere.

English universities enjoy a very privileged position in Quebec. In 1968-69 the English minority of 17% occupied 42% of all university places and English universities received 30% of all government grants. McGill University, the largest, richest and most powerful university in the province is English and receives 22% of all government grants. It has a research budget equal to those of the two largest French universities combined.

Set against this background of exploitation, one of the most significant phenomena in the labor movement in recent years has been a process of moving beyond purely economist practice into political action. The first trade unions that developed in Quebec were part of a nation-wide organization, linked to the AFL-CIO in the US and grouped under the FTQ. The FTQ's early history resembles that of the early CIO -- militant syndicalism, violent strikes, and clashes with scabs and the police. Parallel to the development of the FTQ, the CSN arose as an indigenous Quebec labor federation with no ties at all to Canadian or US unions. Initiated by the Catholic Church as a company union to combat the "radical FTQ", it has now secularized and transformed itself into a militant union. In the past few years the struggle of Quebec workers has escalated beyond the passive strike and peaceful picket line. In the construction strike of the summer of 1969 and in the mail truck drivers' strike during the winter of 1970 there were bombings and barricaded Post Offices; there was an armed occupation of a strike-bound paper factory in 1968; and in the long drawn-out lockout at Montreal's largest daily, La Presse, last autumn, one woman was killed in a savage attack by police on a demonstration outside the newspaper offices. The reaction to the La Presse lockout was surprising; an unprecedented wave of criticism by all levels of Quebec society was provoked by the behavior of the corporation, and at its December '71 convention, the FTQ called on Quebec workers to form a common front against "our natural enemies, financiers, puppet politicians, and subservient judges" to destroy "the political and economic system under which we live." The CSN and the CEQ had already declared their objective to be a socialist society.

There can be no doubt that the establishment is afraid of the workers' struggle which is also fusing rapidly with the struggle for an independent Quebec. It freely concedes that the radicalization of the workers and their militant action frightens them more than the kidnapping of Pierre Laporte and James Cross in October 1970. Many see the Common Front as the base from which will grow an independent working class movement as an alternative to the middle class-led Parti Quebecois, which by its refusal to endorse the demonstration at La Presse on the grounds that it is "a political party and not an agitational movement", illustrated to many workers its real nature as opposed to its political rhetoric.

One of the unfortunate results of the April-May strikes of this year has been the decision on the part of a minority of the membership of the CSN to break away and form another union.

The failure to maintain the solidarity of the general strike indicates that there is still a sizeable number of people who believe in the traditional reformist type of labor union. But probably the most important result of the strike has been that the majority of workers in Quebec now realize the futility of attempting to make deals with their employers and agree with Marcel Pepin's intent of setting up "permanent structures of political action, the aim of which is to eventually replace the agents of the owning class, the well-heeled and the American investors." (It is interesting to note at this point how little publicity the strikes got in the US -- it was virtually impossible to find anyone who even knew they had taken place. Just as The New York Times has given such consistent emphasis to right-wing opposition in Chile in its attempt to discredit the Allende government, so on June 18 it carried a report on the break-away union after having given minimal coverage of the general strike.)

In spite of this most recent setback, the militant action of workers over the last few months indicates that a new era of Quebec history is beginning. La lutte continue. . .

INTERESTED IN NEWS OF

THE QUEBEC LIBERATION STRUGGLE?

Articles and news briefs are published every three weeks by;

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SABOTAGE Cont'd. . . .

ade began with canoes trying to block the ammunition ship USS Nitro from leaving for Vietnam. The canoes were joined by about 20 protestors on land, who were arrested trying to stop trucks from delivering ammunition to the depot. On the 24th, while 20 canoes tried to block the ship's departure, 7 sailors jumped off their ship to join the protestors. A similar action took place on June 10th and 11th, and on June 17 the 35' PEACE SLOOP anchored near the pier to maintain a 24 hour a day watch on the depot through June. Six canoes are constantly ready to blockade munitions ships that set out from the depot. As of this writing, both land and sea blockading actions are planned for June 24th and 25th at Leonardo.

On June 5, the aircraft carrier America sailed for Vietnam after the Coast Guard cleared the way of anti-war protestors in small boats so the ship could move from its Norfolk Naval Air Station pier to a dock where it could load ammunition. 31 protestors were plucked from the harbor water, brought ashore on a cutter, and then released without charges. About 30 minutes before the carrier left the pier, Coast Guard boats moved in among the demonstrators canoes and rowboats and tried to take the crafts in tow with boathooks. Several canoes capsized, dunking their occupants, and one canoe was swamped by the wake of a tugboat.

WAR TAX RESISTANCE

A growing number of individuals and organizations have been resisting various war taxes by a variety of means over the past few years. Some of these organizations are Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, SANE, War Resisters League, and National Welfare Rights Organization. Nearly two hundred tax resistance centers have been set up by a national organization, War Tax Resistance.

Tax resistance is now particularly timely. The government has imposed a tax structure which forces poor and working people to bear the brunt of the costs for its war in Southeast Asia. At the same time, the government bolsters unprecedented corporate profits by channeling tax money to the producers of munitions and war materiel and to government-sponsored corporate researchers. The Nixon administration has decided to use tax money to hire poor Asians and to deploy sophisticated war technology as a replacement for US troops in its last ditch effort to prop up the Thieu government in Saigon.

For some time, Resist has refused to volunteer the war tax on telephone service and has had the policy of not honoring IRS liens on staff wages. Resist is now taking three additional steps to strengthen this form of resistance:

- Resist will not withhold federal taxes from any staff person's wages;
- Resist will use constructively the funds which would have gone to the Federal government by placing them in various anti-war funds or by rechanneling them into Resist's own work;
- Resist will seek ways to publicize and politicize tax resistance wherever possible.

Resist has decided to take these stands on tax resistance because we feel that such actions contribute to a climate in which people are less subservient and more willing to challenge illegal laws and an unjust status quo. We encourage other individuals and organizations to volunteer no money to the Federal government and to use this money to fund socially and politically useful alternatives.

(For further information on tax resistance contact: War Tax Resistance; 339 Lafayette Street; New York, New York 10012; phone (212)477-2970.)

COLLECTE VIETNAM

Formed and operated by American and Vietnamese refugees and local Montrealers, COLLECTE VIETNAM wants to see medical and aid services provided to war-ravaged Vietnam. Their goal as well as their organization is based on the humanistic principle of people-to-people cooperation, and their means of action is mutual confidence among the citizens and citizen's groups of all nations.

All funds collected will be sent directly to the official delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam. None of the money received will be used for the committee's organization and administration. All costs for publicity, secretarial services and mail will be undertaken by the subcommittee for administration and patronage and by gifts sent especially for these purposes.

Donations can be sent to COLLECTE VIETNAM, PO Box 238, Sta. Outremont, Montreal 154, Quebec, Canada.

A SUPPORTER'S OBJECTIONS

Dear Resist People:

I have decided to discontinue supporting Resist; since I have managed to send you money every month for many years, I feel obligated to explain this change of policy.

Resist is based on the supposition that there is a broad coalition (existing and/or in potentia) of people fighting oppression of all sorts domestically and internationally, and that the main thing these people need is money. I disagree on two counts.

One, although I agree that the coalition exists, I no longer trust you to define it for me. Partly, this is because some of the organizations you fund seem reformist, effectively blunting class struggle rather than intensifying it (e.g., in Newsletter #60, Kudzu finding 'that there are fewer cultural differences between young people of all classes than between young people and older people of any single class'). But mainly because the sort of information you provide about the organizations does not concentrate on the issue of anti-imperialism in the context of class struggle, so I rarely can tell whether an organization is legitimate or not. You do not seem to be aware that this issue is of primary importance.

Two, I don't think the chief need is money. If an organization is genuinely serving people's needs it will be supported by them. Outside aid can help in rare instances, but it can also shield the organization from the imperative demand to serve the people. I think the chief need at the present time is for principled struggle, making more and more people aware of their true basis for unity in anti-imperialism and for socialism. Since you do not seem to be working toward this goal, I have no choice but to cease supporting you.

Sincerely, Vincent A. Wald

(Ed. Note: We agree with Wald's statement that money is not the chief need in our struggle and that groups should not be shielded from relating primarily to their own communities and constituencies, which will maintain them if they are doing valuable work. Resist consciously tries to fund on the basis of these beliefs. We are very interested in hearing from any of you concerning your interpretations of class-consciousness and anti-imperialism as it relates to the work of Resist.)

LA LUTTE Cont'd. . . .

exploited by a triumvirate of US and Anglo-Canadian capital and a new generation of Quebec technocrats whose success in modernizing Quebec's social, political and educational structures has opened up the province to advanced forms of capitalist development. People of French ethnic origin make up 90% of the Quebec working class. The other 10% is composed mostly of immigrants from Europe and a very small number of Anglo-Canadians. Wage rates in Quebec are about 25% less than those of workers outside Quebec and 35-40% lower than US rates. Average income of French Quebecois is 40% lower than average income of English Canadians. Furthermore, Quebec has always had a disproportionately high unemployment rate -- about two or three times that of Ontario, the other highly industrialized region of Canada. Federal government reports have shown a de facto racist policy regarding French-speaking people in the Province. A person who speaks English only earns more than a bilingual French Quebecois and a per-

MAY GRANTS

Philadelphia Resistance, 104-6 S. 13th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107. Toward cost of setting up outdoor equipment to show the NARMIC slide show on the war at shopping centers and other public places to build support for spring actions.

People's Coalition for Peace & Justice, 2 Brookline St., Cambridge, Ma. 02139. Toward cost of leaflet concerning local anti-war actions in May.

Community Health Clinic, c/o K. Cole, Box 1076, Middletown, Ct. 06457. Toward cost of equipment necessary to expand health clinic.

Clemon Blanchey, PO Box 520, Walla Walla, Wash. 99362. For tapes, postage, and ditto paper. This Federal pen. inmate is making tapes of prisoners discussing conditions on the inside which have been used by local radio stations.

The Great Speckled Bird, PO Box 7847, Station C, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. Toward costs (which are many) of getting the Bird back on its wings after being firebombed on May 6. The bomb demolished all the office equipment (about \$5,000 worth), back files, graphics, and contact lists built up over the past 4 years. The Bird is now using borrowed equipment to continue publishing. Bird folks attribute the attack to a recent expose of connections between the Mayor of Atlanta and local slumlords, and similar exposes of the Police Department. Naturally, they are now having real problems finding a new place to live and work. Also damaged in the fire was the Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence, Box 7477, which was housed in the basement of the Bird's building. The Bird has been the most widely-read radical paper in the South for about 4 years, and they have no intention of giving up now. While the fire has aroused unexpected community support, much money and help is still needed. Subscriptions are \$6/52 issues, \$3.50 for GI's, free for prisoners. Or just SEND MONEY.

Chicago Area Military Project (CAMP), 2801 N. Sheffield, Chicago, Ill. 60657. Toward cost of a new typewriter for use in putting out their monthly paper which coordinates news of the GI movement from all over the world.

Women's Center, 3 East Market St., Iowa City, Ia. 52240. Toward cost of program which includes sending a Tenants' Rights Handbook and the Welfare Rights Handbook to everyone on welfare in the county. Response has been good, and other programs include building a women's library, a legal clinic, abortion loan fund, divorce rights center, and various skills classes. The Center relates primarily to community, rather than University, women.

Appalachian Mountain Youth Collective, 321 Richwood Ave., Morgantown, W.Va. 26505. To cover cost of printing leaflet on a radical platform for the Miners Convention at Wheeling College. Group has been challenging the liberal leadership of the United Mine Workers.

Safe Return, 156 Fifth Ave., NY NY 10010. Toward costs of a speaking tour by a self-retired Vietnam veteran. Group hopes to provide a legal structure to aid self-retired vets returning to the US from exile. They are providing a radical critique of the amnesty question by challenging plans which distinguish between draft evaders and deserters on the grounds that such plans favor the middle-class, better-educated evader over the primarily working-class deserter who lacked the resources of time, knowledge of alternatives, and support of community to choose evasion before being drafted and exposed to the reality of the military machine.

JUNE GRANTS

Chicano Vietnam Project, PO Box 331, Berkeley, Ca. 96701. Toward paying off past debts. Group has been working to organize Chicano anti-war sentiment and to further a consciousness of solidarity between Chicanos and the Vietnamese through films, slide shows, talks. Information has been exchanged with the Vietnamese, and they are trying to arrange a trip to Vietnam.

Harvard Square Waitresses Union, c/o Mass. Lawyer's Guild, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Ma. 02139. Toward costs of research project on working conditions of all service jobs in the Square. Information will be used to aid and encourage local strikes and to push for compliance of employers with existing laws. Union has grown out of a strike at one restaurant and is still struggling for recognition by the owner after several months of a very effective and widely-supported strike. Members have been personally harassed and refused service and work in Square restaurants.

Massachusetts Lawyer's Guild, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Ma. 02139. For subscriptions for law journals, reproduction of information bulletins, and postage to send these bulletins to jail house lawyers. Guild is losing financial support from older established lawyers because of more radical approaches to the court and use of the law.

The Center for Women's Legal Studies, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Ma. 02139. Emergency grant toward one month's salary for woman to be released from prison. The woman has worked closely with the group while in prison, and in order to be paroled must have a job lined up which would be approved by her parole officer.

Health Information Project, 3601 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. Temporary help until more long-term funding comes through. They recently lost promised funding from a Catholic group when it was discovered that they did abortion counselling. They are a radical health research and organizing group which disseminates information on the health care system to groups of health care consumers and workers.

Community Day Care Center, 1933 Maple Ave., Huntington, W.Va. 25701. For costs of initial rent of building for care of 40 children. Group stresses need for day care centers which are under community control, especially in the light of pending legislation which could result in company controlled day care centers.

The Prison Law Collective, 2308 Divisadero St., San Francisco, Ca. 94115. For printing of Jail House Lawyer's Manual, which aids prisoners in filing their own suits for damages to help combat brutality inside. They are a prison support group and have filed several class action suits against brutality, long confinement, and restrictions on correspondences and literature.

The Sister Center, c/o V. Stock, 6414 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. 60626. One month's operating costs including rent, pregnancy testing chemicals, films, speakers, and phone service. Center is also setting up an emergency rape service to provide medical and legal information, and information on what to expect from police if a rape is reported.

Cambridge Tenants Organizing Committee, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Ma. 02139. Toward operating costs for 2 months. Group aims at building independent power among tenants and hopes to develop a radical community party working in all areas. They have already done anti-war work and have assisted the Polaroid Workers, farmworkers, and waitresses boycotts, and often organize neighborhoods to successfully prevent evictions.