


Which Side Are You On ?

FARMWORKERS: Stan Dalton, Toronto



LETTERS FROM EXILE
The Cadre,
U.P.E.I.

The Queen

Before the massive labor demonstration on Parliament Hill on March 22, the Liberal Trudeau government, as well as the capitalist press, tried to maintain that it was only the leaders of the labor movement who were against wage controls. The massive turnout proved quite clearly that that was not true.

The capitalists, their government, and their press were trying to drive a wedge between the rank and file and their leaders in an attempt to create labor disunity. That failed. They did not stop there however, the press reports tried to tone down the size and militancy of labor's demonstration. The capitalist

press said there were some 15,000 demonstrators. In fact there were 35-40,000 demonstrators from coast to coast. P.E.I.; Yukon; and N.W.T. stood side by side with their class brothers from every other part of Canada.

Never before has labor been so united from coast to coast. That demonstration was the symbol of the beginning of labor's great fight-back; the class war is now obvious and out front characterizing every event in this country and determining its context and outcome.

Two days after the historical demonstration the Canadian Labor Congress, led by Joe Morris, withdrew from the Canadian Labor Relations Board (C.L.R.B.), and the Economic Council of Canada (E.C.C.). The latter had come out in favor of wage controls even before the government!

There was no point in continued labor representation in these bodies, because even though they "had a say" (as the press likes to put

it), they had no Decisive influence - they were not counted in the decision-making process.

If you would like a perfect analogy, consider the UPEI student representation on Senate! Baker will argue of course, that students "have a say" - and he's right; but what good is a say if it fails to have Decisive influence?

To you student senators - all 5 of you - let us ask you what policies you are successful in initiating from Senate?

After you've had your "SAY", what happens when the vote is taken: what does your minority SAY amount to then? Where are the policies you have brought about FOR students?

We can hear Baker and Co. now, if the student senators were to boycott the UPEI senate, that they are "snubbing their noses despite their face;" that they are "cutting off their only means to protect their interests;" and similar tripe - the same tripe the government and its kept press is saying about the C.L.C.!

But the C.L.C. and the labor movement is not being fooled any more by the capitalist masters. By withdrawing from the C.L.R.B. and the E.C.C. all facets of class collaboration were done away with: its the workers against the capitalists. The workers have the means and the collective will to fight their class enemies. To each Canadian the question is put: "Which side are you on?" Are you on the side of the capitalists who do not work but appropriate the wealth produced by labor? Or you on the side of labor, which creates all wealth but has it appropriated by the parasitic capitalists?

To the UPEI student the question is put: "are you on the side of "the university" (administration, including government), most faculty), "or are you on the side of

the student (whose mind is used to accumulate knowledge to be used by the capitalists against the student himself)?"

If you answer "the university" then continue unquestioningly with the existing curriculum program to facilitate the ends of your capitalist oppressor and exploiter; if you answer "the student", then rally round your student union. But not as it is now organized! As a conscious student union member, you must, as a rank and file fighter for change, demand that your union be a catalyst for progressive change. Your union must take issue - challenge - the university.

To democratize UPEI; to Canadianize faculty; to fight for better university housing, fees, and student programs; to fight for DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, you must demand the reconstitution of your union along lines that ensure ACTION against the dominant powers of UPEI. You must demand that UPEI be a university relevant to the student as well as the Island, rather than a place of seclusion where the ideologies can work on you to make you a submissive servant to fulfil their ends as opposed to yours.

Demand, the times ask of you, for the right to self-determination!

Our future, my fellow Islanders, hinges on whether we take up the struggle amidst which we find ourselves, or run into the vicious den of the capitalist lions.

Seek your post - and urge your fellows to do likewise. The fight is our fight - not of our choosing to be true; but the burden of success lies upon our shoulders as did a somewhat similar burden upon the shoulders of Christ during the traumatic times of an ancient era.

"The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win." (Marx-Engels).

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