

WORKERS VANGUARD SUPPLEMENT 13 Oct. 1971

## FIGHT THE BETRAYERS!

Nixon's new economic program is a simultaneous declaration of war on the American working class and on the imperialist trade rivals of the U.S. It is designed to save the dollar and the competitive position of U.S. capitalists on the world market by making the working class pay for the inefficiencies of capitalism with new sacrifices. Woodcock, Fitzsimmons, Meany and the entire labor bureaucracy, by joining the government enforcement agency, have completely capitulated, betrayed the workers, and hastened the process of chaining the unions hand-and-foot to the bosses' imperialist state.

The Nixon program is a statement of recognition by the U.S. ruling class that the long post-war period of U.S. imperialist domination of the world--the "American Century"--has come to an end. With it has gone the era of relative class peace at home which began with the McCarthyite witchhunt and lining-up of the labor movement in lockstep under the banner of the cold-war anti-communist crusade. The U.S. is no longer sole world banker and world policeman; it is one imperialist rival among many. As always in such rivalries, the fight is to the death. The outbreak of World War III, another global war for redivision of the world among the major capitalist powers, and for the military restoration of capitalism in the deformed workers' states, has been brought one step closer by Nixon's actions. Only the conscious intervention of the world working class, through revolution to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism, can reverse this course toward ultimate destruction.

### Anti-war Failure

Nixon's program follows a period of several years of progressive weakening of U.S. capitalism's world position. Important in this decline has been the debacle of the Indochina war. The anti-war movement has completely ignored the central character of this war in the capitalist economy and class struggle. The reformists in the anti-war leadership, CP, SWP-YSA, and their liberal friends, have kept the movement limited to the "single issue" of peace and maintained a perspective of coalition with the liberal wing of the ruling class, whose only criticism of Nixon is that the wage freeze should have been imposed sooner. Workers are now being enticed into this popular front movement, which proudly displays long lists of liberal politicians and "left" union bureaucrats as sponsors and speakers--the same fakers who are busy supporting Nixon and shoving wage controls, in one way or another, down the throats of the workers!

There is no such thing as "fair" wage and price controls under capitalism. No matter how "thorough" the enforcement, the government which does the enforcing is controlled by the giant price-fixers themselves. The bosses can always find ways to raise prices behind the backs of the workers, but a worker can't "decide" to sneak a wage hike for himself behind the back of the boss! Wage-price controls are strictly a weapon of the ruling class against the workers to give the capitalists an additional advantage in the struggle between the two classes, which continues every day unabated.

### Class Struggle The Only Answer

The only answer to this assault on the standard of living of the workers is the class struggle of the working class as a whole against the capitalists and their government--something which the present leaders of the labor movement have been trying to forget for over twenty years. Now they are having it shoved down their throats, in reverse, by the bosses! The program is so blatantly an attack on labor that even Meany and Woodcock were temporarily forced to oppose it, although they continued to favor wage-price controls "in principle". They were not holding out for a better deal for the workers under the new program or for "fair" wage-price controls, which they know is impossible. They sought only to convince Nixon and the ruling class that the rulers need them for the purpose of quelling dissent amongst the workers and ensuring the cooperation of the unions with the new plan. Meany himself admitted that his demand for an "independent" wage board was meaningless rhetoric, since Nixon created the board in the first place.

While the labor bureaucracy reflected the pressure from their ranks by complaining a bit before their abject surrender, the so-called (over)