

IN THIS ISSUE

Workers Need to Speak in Their Own Name

- **Absurd and Outmoded Nonsense Spoken on Campaign Trail**
- *Pierre Chénier* -
- **Bringing in the New Against the Old Is a Necessity, Not a Choice**
- *Normand Chouinard* -

Workers Need to Speak in Their Own Name

**Absurd and Outmoded Nonsense Spoken
on Campaign Trail**

- *Pierre Chénier* -



The nonsense which the leaders of the parties that form the cartel party system are speaking "on the campaign trail" is mind-boggling. They concoct "issues" according to what their expensive campaign handlers think will get them votes, as if the real world and real people do not exist. This underscores once again the need for the working people to speak in their own name to make sure things are turned around in their favour in the coming period.

Workers in this country will advance the struggle for the rights of all and for people's empowerment by speaking about their real living and working conditions and how to sort out the problems that

they and society face. They can contribute to developing an agenda that truly represents the people's concerns and opens a way to have them addressed.

Day in, day out, workers across Canada stand up for the rights and well-being of all but, when an election rolls around, they are cajoled to entrust their fate to the parties that form the cartel party system in a parliament which never addresses their concerns in a manner which favours them. It is indeed absurd and outmoded to think that narrow global private interests bring prosperity or care about people, communities, societies or the natural environment. But this is what fills the airwaves day in and day out.

Successive governments in Canada, the provinces, Quebec and the territories all implement decisions which favour global private interests in every field of the economy with detrimental results. But now, on the campaign trail, Trudeau is telling us that this is a success story while others are promising more of the same but "better" -- more fiscally responsibly, more socially responsible, more environmentally responsible, more transparent, less corrupt, genuinely consultative, and so on. All of them say they speak for the workers or people or middle class or everybody. They seek to reduce the working people, who form the majority, to spectators of electoral shenanigans and demand they line themselves up behind those who promote irrationality unconcerned.

It is indeed absurd and outmoded.

In this campaign, The Marxist-Leninist Party calls on Canada's working people to speak out against the anti-social, anti-worker, anti-national and pro-war decisions which are imposed and the charade maintained that the decisions are democratic because, through the election, the government receives a mandate from the people. This notion that an election campaign confers a mandate is absurd and outmoded.

The nonsense spewed by the leaders of the parties which form a cartel party system to keep the people out of power reveals the need for the working people to place themselves at the centre of political activity and discourse.

Let's participate in this election campaign by not permitting this suffocating and stultifying anti-people, irrational discourse to turn our brains into mush. Let us vigorously intervene by using our own voices to speak in our own name to discuss our concerns, the real conditions that exist and the solutions to the problems we face.

Pierre Chénier is the secretary of the Workers' Centre of the Marxist-Leninist Party and the MLPC candidate in Châteauguay--Lacolle.

Bringing in the New Against the Old Is a Necessity, Not a Choice

- Normand Chouinard -

A lot is said about "choices" in this election: choice of candidates, choice of parties, choice of promises and so on. As workers we are told to make the choice which best accords with our own beliefs. This is said to be what democracy is all about. Economically, we are reduced to a category called consumers who have freedom of choice about what, where, when and how they consume. As citizens, we are said to be free because we are entitled to choose who will represent us. We have no

say over the direction of the economy or what is produced or who is chosen by parties which form a cartel party system and vie to form the next government or what they do and for whom, but we are free to chose.

In fact, the only choice for the workers is to speak about their concerns and reject the nonsense about choices that fills the air waves. Canada's working people do not need a privileged strata to govern over them and deprive them of any control over the decisions which affect their lives.

The political space reserved for workers by the cartel parties is one of helplessness, hopelessness and humiliation. Workers are supposed to place their hopes and fate in someone who claims she or he will represent them once in power. Once in power, the party that forms the government does whatever the narrow private interests they serve tell them. Workers are then supposed to feel disappointed or even betrayed because "commitments" are broken. They are told that after the election their role will be to hold this or that government's "feet to the fire." Agreeing with these "choices" renders the working people passive or bitter or frustrated observers because they exercise no control over any of it.



What conclusion can workers draw from all of this? Are they to believe they have all these choices when in fact the choice imposed on them is a dictate to permit others to speak in their name? How this dictate prevails when nobody agrees with it is a serious issue facing all of us. It bears looking into. How does a privileged minority remain in power when the majority does not support its rule? What role do elections play in maintaining that rule?

Working people do not agree with the direction of the economy, with the sell-out of our resources, with the way the natural environment is endangered, with how the national interest is defined and betrayed or that we are engaged in killing other peoples through sanctions and wars of aggression and occupation or with how decisions are taken. How then does this carry on and on and on? How can things be done differently so that we break with the past and no longer cohabit with the dictate that our duty is to chose one of the parties which form a cartel party system to keep the people out of power.

We can start changing things in a manner which favours our interests and those of Quebec and Canada itself by discussing things from a perspective which favours us, not the rich. We can intervene in these elections by finding ways and means to speak about our own concerns, in our own name. This will be a democratic thing to do.

Normand Chouinard is the MLPC candidate in La Prairie.

**Send your articles, photographs, reports, views and comments to
editormlpc@cpcml.ca**