

the county. With increasing inflation and the decline of real wages, the majority of the working people, in particular the young workers, could no longer afford to buy their own homes--especially since most of the new homes being built were in the \$70,000 and up category. There were now more apartment dwellers than home owners, and the county wage level remained significantly below the rest of the Los Angeles industrial basin.

Also in the late 1960s, the anti-war movement radicalized students at Cal-State, Fullerton, University of California, Irvine, and community colleges

such as Santa Ana College and Orange Coast College. With the growth of a large local Viet Nam Veterans Against the War and a brief Black Panther episode, Orange County saw its first open political activity since the 1930s. A number of radical organizations came into existence locally or were colonized from outside, flowered briefly, and then transformed themselves into other groups or died out. Some of the people who founded our organization experienced the birth, struggles and death throes of local organizations such as Sherwood Forest, Red Orange, Red Herring and Commun-

WHAT WE MEAN BY

## Marxism-Leninism

Marxism-Leninism is not a religion based on "wise teachings" but the application of the scientific method to human society, first practiced and systematized by Marx and Lenin. It is also called dialectical materialism. It is materialist because it rejects the idea that mysterious forces control the world--rather than the interaction of real people in the process of producing their material existence. It is dialectical because it recognizes the existence of contradictions in all phenomena. The struggle between these contradictions determines the character and direction of every phenomenon. Marxism-Leninism rejects dogmas and dogmatism because it is a living science, continually refined by the experience of the class struggle and social revolution.

Just as Newton's and Galileo's discoveries showed how to identify the forces affecting the physical world, Marx' and Lenin's showed how to identify the broadest underlying forces of human society. Dialectical materialism showed that previous views of historical change were wrong, that it was not "ideas," or "great leaders," or "accidents," or "divine will" that provided the mainsprings of change, but the interests and struggles of

great classes of people. It was not a passive study content merely to identify these forces, but a fighting liberating movement seeking to free the world from all forms of oppression.

Marxism-Leninism came into existence along with the rise of the working class movement in the 19th century because it is the revolutionary ideology of the international working class. Previous revolutionary classes were minorities who mistook their particular interests for universal human interests. The working class is not a minority, and it contains the potential to become a universal class--to include all of humanity. The working class can only come to power on the conscious understanding that it fights for universal human interests and will ultimately put an end to all class society and class exploitation.

Even when a majority of the working class is still dominated by capitalist ideology, Marxism-Leninism is their true ideology because it is based on their real situation in the world and their ultimate goals. It is the duty of a communist party to combat capitalist ideology and bring dialectical materialism to the working class.