

EQUAL RIGHTS CONGRESS

The Communist Labor Party has always said that the onslaught of fascism in Anglo-America would hit first against the national minorities and particularly the Negro. This projection has not been made out of thin air, but rather on the concretes of the history of the development of this country. How could it be any other way, when fascism exists in both Puerto Rico and the Negro Nation.

Today's events most definitely bear this out. A day doesn't pass when events of police murder and Klan terror are not reported both in the North and South, and against particularly the Negroes. In the Southwest, the terror against the Mexican national minority and the vicious deportations of Mexican workers have become a target of Klan activity in conjunction with the state apparatus.

As President Ford shouts that the depression is over, unemployment continues to rise, inflation skyrockets and the standard of living of the working class rapidly declines. While vetoing the free-lunch program, Ford declares that the defense spending is the most important aspect of American society. As he beefs up the military and the secret service, he does nothing to alleviate the desperate, miserable conditions of the working class.

In response to this devastating crisis, the workers have struck back, but,

Continued on Page 6

EQUAL RIGHTS CONGRESS

Continued from Page 2

always in an unorganized and spontaneous manner. In response to the police murders and Klan terror they have also fought back, but again without leadership, isolated from one another and eventually defeated.

These facts point to the crucial task that faces the Communist today, that is the building of our political party, independent from the bourgeoisie. Through the course of this struggle to build our party, we face the objective fact that our class is divided into many sectors. One sector which will never unite is the most bribed workers who are tied to imperialism by a thousand threads. But the majority of the class is objectively unitable. And the heart of our class, the semi-skilled and unskilled sectors, made up of many national minority workers, must be our first target in the struggle to unite our class. But this section also is fractured, each national minority fighting its own battle, and being defeated. A good example is that of the struggle around busing and bi-lingual education. The bourgeoisie placed the question in such a way as to counterpose one to the other. Either busing or bi-lingual education. Thus we have seen the Puerto Rican and the Mexican on the one hand fighting against busing, while the Negro fights against bi-lingual education. This is not always the case, in fact there are many examples of national minorities who have united to fight for a common cause, but in the main, the heart of our fighting vanguard is fighting amongst themselves, thinking that only at the expense of the other will they get what they want.

We saw this same situation during the years of Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty program, when the national minorities fought over the measly crumbs that the government threw to them. It was at this time that the nationalist movement became the strongest, isolating each other from the other's struggles. These

RESISTANCE

Continued from Page 3

George Wallace has also announced that he will be opening his campaign headquarters for Northern California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska in this same area, Santa Clara County, because of all the "sympathizers" his white chauvinist and fascist politics have there. The "sympathetic" support he counts on is the terror from these gangs who will deal with opposition from decent and fair-minded people as fascists do: with the gun, the burning cross and the lynch rope.

Workers are standing up to these at-

separatist movements always were crushed and the bourgeoisie as always was the winner. Just recently, in the Negro newspapers in Los Angeles, vicious attacks against Mexicans were reported, and the Negro "spokesmen" came out in defense of deportations, stating that the Mexicans were taking jobs from the Negroes. The role of these so-called leaders of the national minorities is to continue this divisiveness.

The examples of disunity are endless, but the question that remains is what can we do about it! It is easy to point to a problem and state it is a problem, but it is much harder to find the solution. But finding solutions is what leadership is, finding solutions is the job of the communists and through resolving these contradictions raising the level of the workers who we are in contact with and recruiting them into the party.

The leadership of the CLP, understanding that the first step in uniting the sections of the class who can be united, by uniting the national minority workers, is proposing the formation of an Equal Rights Congress. This Congress would be an umbrella organization which would unite all the "grass root" groupings and individuals who are daily engaged in the battle for the equal rights of minorities; the People's Defense Committees, the block clubs, the anti-deportation groups, the many boycott groups, etcetera. We are not proposing another party "front" group, which many times is isolated and separate from the workers' struggle, but an organization which can bring under its wing the thousands of workers who are already engaged in the struggle for equality and freedom. These workers, in the vanguard of the proletariat, must be made to understand that their struggles isolated and separate from the general political struggle will never succeed. These workers must be shown that the unity of the national minority workers will mean the unity of our class. Unless we can unite the core of the proletariat, we will be unable to unite the rest of our class.

Our Party has understood that the national minorities are always the most vulnerable because of national oppression, but the time of well-meaning words, sweeping generalities and big talkers is over. The bourgeoisie is organizing and mobilizing all that they can, daily driving the wedges between the various sectors of the class further. Their tactics have not been of simply stating the problem and forgetting it, but rather of motion and organization. It is high time that the communists do the same. The recognition of the problem is the first step and now we must take the second step which is the organization of the proletariat.

Every party member must begin this process immediately. We must begin to search out and contact the various groupings and individuals who can be won over to such a program. Begin to actively participate in and support these groupings in their battles, but always bringing to the forefront the questions of unity both politically and organizationally. Comrade Stalin stated that communists are people of a special mold, people who feel deeper and see further. If our party is to recruit into its ranks the fighting heart of the proletariat then we must be a party of action and not simply words. No one can say exactly what kind of form this Congress take, Through the comrades' work around the Congress will emerge an organizational form.

But the struggle for the unity of the national minority workers is a life and death issue. If we cannot unite these sections of the class, we will be unable to unite the other workers. No Anglo-American worker will fight with us, unless we fight for the interests of those workers on the "bottom." The importance of this work cannot be overemphasized. Its success or failure will be a determining factor in the success or failure of our party to become the vanguard and general staff that we all speak so much about.

Comrades, let us make our slogan of independence and liberation for the oppressed nations a living reality. Let us move now to build this Equal Rights Congress and by doing so build our Party into a viable political force in society.



ALBUQUERQUE

Continued from Page 3

They rebuked the militant crowd and tried to restrain them by saying they should be grateful that the Police Chief and other officials had come to meet them. But the militant workers kept up their demands: "That's why we're still sitting here, -- we want to hear about jobs."

In place of employment they were offered a proposal to pay the unemployed youth of the neighborhood to ride with police on patrols and the formation of a "neighborhood crime prevention association".

The situation is so desperate for workers seeking jobs, especially if they are young or national minorities, that