

Tasks of Drafting New Communist Program

The Marxist-Leninist communist party to be founded later this year must have a sound political program to guide its work. The program will be one of the party's most powerful weapons of education and organization.

The Organizing Committee for a Marxist-Leninist Party (OC), representing a number of organizations including the October League, is now at work on the draft of a program for the new party. The draft will be published and should be widely discussed and debated.

The debate around the draft program will make the ongoing ideological struggles within the Marxist-Leninist movement more concrete and raise them to a higher level. This debate will speed the unification of all Marxist-Leninists on a principled basis. The sharper and wider the struggle for the program, the stronger will be the unity of the new party and the clearer will be its understanding of its tasks.

Final debate and adoption of the program will be a main item of business at the founding congress of the new party.

CONDITIONS FOR PROGRAM

Is the time ripe for drafting a program? What must a program do? In drafting the program for the Russian party in 1902, Lenin set forth "three conditions essential for the elaboration of a consistent socialist program." They are: "... a clear idea of the ultimate aim; a correct understanding of the path leading to that aim; an accurate conception of the true state of affairs at the given moment or of the immediate tasks of that moment." ("Revolutionary Adventurism," *Collected Works*, Vol. 6, p. 206)

After more than 20 years of struggle against modern revisionism, the Marxist-Leninist movement in the U.S. has developed to a point where it is clearly able to meet these conditions.

Modern revisionism, represented in the U.S. by the Communist Party (CPUSA), has betrayed communism, which is the ultimate aim of the struggle and abandoned the dictatorship of the proletariat, which is the immediate strategic aim. The party program will sum up and reaffirm these aims and expose the revisionist betrayal.

The revisionists have abandoned the revolutionary path and taken the road of reformism and class collaboration. Their theories of "anti-monopoly coalition" and "two-stage revolution in the U.S." have been exposed as reactionary and bankrupt. The new party program will show the path to uniting all who can be united for proletarian revolution in a single stage in the con-

crete conditions of the U.S.

The CPUSA and other opportunists obscure the nature of the present situation and our tasks. Revisionism spreads the illusions of "detente," "democratization of imperialism," "peaceful transition to socialism" and the like. The new party program will sum up and raise to a higher level the correct understanding Marxist-Leninists have won in the struggle against these and similar illusions.

An important task in drafting the program is to define correctly the relation between the aims of the movement and the day-to-day struggles that arise spontaneously. The program must combat aloofness from these struggles, under whatever guise. It must also combat the illusion that these struggles on their own will lead to revolution and to socialism.

PARTY'S ROLE AS FIGHTER

A Marxist-Leninist program must affirm the party's role as a fighter against every instance of oppression and exploitation, and as champion, within that fight, of the revolutionary aims which alone can bring emancipation. Reform struggles must be fought in a revolutionary way, and concessions that are wrested from the capitalists must be won as a by-product of revolutionary struggle. Our program must direct the struggle of the working class at the complete overthrow of imperialism, not at reforming or prettifying it.

The party program must be scientifically correct. But its formulations must not be abstract, as if it were intended for a series of lectures. Its every line must show, in Lenin's words, that it is "the program of a party engaged in a practical struggle." It cannot be an academic exercise in facts and statistics, nor can it be a long commentary on every aspect of the party's political line.

It must be written as a weapon that can be used to expand the party's influence and educate the workers about the party's line. "The proletariat learns what capitalism is, not from academic definitions, but from practical acquaintance with the contradictions of capitalism—with the development of society and its consequences." Lenin, "Notes on Plekh. Draft," Vol. 6, p. 37-57)

The program for the new party must present a vivid picture of the contradictions inherent in the capitalist system. It must show how proletarian revolution is the inevitable outcome of these contradictions.

Progress reports on the work of the Organizing Committee in drafting the program will be published in the following weeks.