

# Look Who's Into Yellow Journalism!

Photographs of hooded Klansmen and other racists demonstrating to lend sensationalism to the slander that workers are supporting segregation. Blatant distortion of the aims and actions of a mass organization of workers in the attempt to throw mud on the working class in the eyes of those fighting against the oppression of minority nationalities.

Is this a scandal sheet of the local capitalists? Is it the Hearst papers or the New York *Daily News*? No, it is the rag of a so-called Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist), which claims to be the "vanguard of the working class."

This article (*Call*, September 26, 1977) purports to describe a demonstration by the workers at the founding convention of the National United Workers Organization (NUWO), Labor Day weekend in Chicago. The *Call* presents the demonstration as one in unity with the openly segregationist Bogan Community Council, the KKK, Nazis, etc..

In fact, of course, just the reverse is true. The whole thrust of the action was in opposition to these reactionaries and to the ruling class they serve, as symbolized by the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, whose headquarters was the target of the demonstration.

Banners and signs throughout the march declared opposition to segregation, discrimination and inequality and a main chant repeated throughout was "The Rich Are Behind These Racist Attacks, We Won't Take It—Unite and Fight Back!" Contrary to the *Call's* distortions, the main theme of the three speakers at the rally following the march was that the capitalist class is responsible for segregation, red-lining and the deteriorating conditions of the neighborhoods where the masses of people live. One speaker, a Black worker from Boston, while showing how the busing plan there was an attack on the working people of that city, Black and white, stressed that busing plans have to be judged case by case and that, in particular, the present transfer plan in Chicago is different than Boston and should be upheld. And each of the speakers denounced the Nazis and groups like the Bogan Community Council and called for the defense of Black children transferring into the schools in the Bogan area.

While at the NUWO convention the discussion around the demonstration was limited by time and there was a certain amount of unclarity about some of the issues related to the present voluntary busing plan in Chicago, it was clear in this discussion and at the demonstration itself that the spearhead of the action was directed against racist attacks on Black people

and the ruling class that is responsible for them. Nothing the bourgeoisie or so-called communists who parrot its lies can say can diminish the power of masses of workers of all nationalities standing up together in a powerful demonstration of unity against these attacks.

And following the demonstration, on the day schools opened in Chicago a few days later, what action did the NUWO take? Picketing and chanting in unity with the reactionaries in the Bogan area? From reading the *Call* one would certainly be led to think so. But, fortunately, reality is not dictated to by the CP (ML). In fact the steering committee of the organizing committee for the NUWO in the Chicago area initiated a Workers Defense Group which was joined by members of Youth In Action, Vietnam Veterans Against the War and the Organizing Committee for a New African Liberation Support Committee to defend Black children from attacks by racist forces.

## Flailing at the Truth

To try to associate the NUWO with slime like the KKK, Nazis, etc., is ridiculous shameless butchery of the truth. Two of the featured speakers at the opening session of the convention were Tom Welch and Buddy Cochran, both presently under indictment for breaking up Klan rallies in Columbus, Ohio and Plains, Georgia, respectively. Both received thunderous standing ovations. And throughout the demonstration were banners and signs condemning the Klan, as well as chants such as "Ku Klux Klan, Scum of the Land!" Further the convention voted that the NUWO will take up as a nationwide effort the defense of not only Cochran, Welch and others in Columbus, but also the Pendleton 14, Black marines persecuted for attempts to fight the Klan.

The fact is that the CP (ML), because of its bankrupt line, found itself isolated from and incapable of influencing workers who united to form the NUWO. So in pursuit of its opportunist ends it flails at the growing unity and organization of the working class, which was moved to a higher level by the formation of the NUWO.

Of course the CP (ML) tries to pretend that it is not attacking the NUWO and the workers who founded it, but is instead "educating people" about the RCP which "tried to use the crowd who gathered at the meeting to push their pro-segregationist, anti-busing line." But, once again, these attacks by the CP (ML) are like a moron throwing a boomerang—what they show you most about and who they actually injure is the attacker himself.

If the CP (ML) were really interested in educating people about the RCP's stand on segregation and busing in Chicago, in particular the present voluntary busing plan, the least it could have done was read the articles in the *Worker* for the Chicago/Gary area (September 10, 1977) which laid out this position at some length. But seeking truth from facts in that way would not serve the CP (ML)'s purposes and would not fit into the *Call's* format of slander and rumor-mongering, since those articles in the *Worker* not only took a clear cut stand against segregation and national oppression but showed concretely how they are attacks by the rul-

ing class on the working class as a whole. It upheld the present voluntary busing plan and called for the defense of Black people attacked by the capitalists and those who do their dirty work.

In its attempts to slur the RCP the CP (ML) not only sins against reality but reveals its fundamental contempt for the workers who united to form the NUWO—and really for the working class in general. Take the following statement in the *Call*, for example: "The NUWO was founded by the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) this month to establish an alternative to the trade unions. But under the influence of the RCP, the National Workers Organization appears to be infected with the same white chauvinism that has served to corrupt the present trade unions and that has long been formented [sic] by the top international bureaucrats." Here the CP (ML) is striving to outdo itself—in this one statement it manages to incorporate three falsehoods in addition to the basic slander that the NUWO is "infected with the same white chauvinism..."

## Deep Investigation

First, the name of the organization is not National Workers Organization but National United Workers Organization, which anyone at the convention would have no difficulty knowing. This raises serious questions about whether the CP (ML) made any effort to find out what actually went on at the convention—where among other things this name was formally adopted—and whether it pays any attention at all to Mao's simple advice, "No investigation, no right to speak."

Second, the NUWO was not founded by the RCP but by 1438 workers, delegates at the convention. The RCP certainly worked to build the NUWO and participated in the convention but the formation of the NUWO and the adoption of its basic stand and program of action at the convention were the product of the combined efforts and collective discussion of hundreds and hundreds of workers, among whom RCP members were a part.

Third, as the *Proclamation* adopted at the convention made clear, the NUWO was not formed as "an alternative to the trade unions." The NUWO is a fighting working class organization whose aim is to mobilize masses of workers, inside and outside the unions, to wage militant struggle on every front against the capitalists and their henchmen in union office and which has, as one of its purposes, "putting the unions back into the hands of the rank and file... organizing the unorganized into unions... [and] rebuilding the unions into strong, fighting organizations" (from the *NUWO Proclamation*). Further this proclamation, far from reflecting the "infection" of the NUWO with white chauvinism, also takes a firm stand against discrimination and national oppression and declares that the fight against this is a crucial battle for the working class.

From all this it is once again clear that the CP (ML), consistent with its ideological and political line, stands foursquare against the struggle of the working class, and attacks rather than supports the advances in this struggle, including the great advance represented by the formation of the NUWO. And as a basic component part of this, the CP (ML), while appropriating the name "communist" and calling itself the revolutionary leadership of the working class, must attack the actual vanguard of the working class, the Revolutionary Communist Party. To do all this, of course, the CP (ML) repeatedly resorts to the most disgraceful and debased distortion and to the method of torturing facts to fit its falsehood.

The CP (ML) will no doubt continue printing such trash in the *Call*. As Stalin said, paper will put up with whatever is written on it—but Stalin didn't and we won't either. ■

## Busing ...

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But we have also said that the issue is not busing in itself and stressed that the particularities of each busing plan have to be analyzed, because in some cases busing can and should be supported.

Any plan to massively bus Chicago school children to meet state guidelines—every school at least 45% Black and at least 10% white—would unleash fantastic conflict and chaos in the schools and in the city at large. Objectively it would pit different sections of the class against each other rather than against the bourgeoisie. Rather than upgrading the schools and eliminating inequality, and promoting integration as part of this, it would move some children to better schools by moving some other children to inferior schools. Inequality cannot be fought by taking gains away from one section of the class, but by fighting the bourgeoisie. Such a plan would have nothing in common with the interests of the working class in fighting to smash inequality and discrimination, upgrading all the schools, and promoting integration based on unity and common struggle.

The question for the working class will be how to turn the anger of the masses at the real enemy. Some of the battlelines will be around already existing sentiment and demands of people against gerrymandered school districts and for new and better schools built and redistricted so that they contribute to integration and against the attacks coming down on education.

Right now the focus in Chicago must be defending the right of people to take advantage of the transfer plan if they desire, and opposing racist attacks. And by taking a correct stand around the current voluntary busing plan, the forces of the working class in Chicago will be in a stronger position to respond to all forms of attacks and take up the fight for decent, equal and integrated education. ■



Workers at the NUWO convention took to the streets of Chicago to denounce racist threats on Black school children in the city's voluntary transfer plan, segregation and lousy education. Contrary to the slanders of the CP(ML) associating a workers' demonstration with fascists, the convention and the demonstration gave warning to the Klan and other scum that the working class will not stand for their efforts to stir up race hatred.