

WORKERS - DON'T FOLLOW THE CPUSA INTO THE ARMS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The Communist Party, USA (CPUSA) has geared up its organization and marshalled its resources for the November elections. A thoughtful examination of the issues presented by the revisionist CPUSA, the slogans advanced and the candidates promoted, reveals the extent to which this group is an arch-enemy of the workers. This is not an exaggeration - it is a sober assessment of their current election tactics.

CPUSA Hand in Hand with the Democratic Party

Alliance with the liberals and the Democratic Party is the essence of the election tactics of CPUSA, and has been since the 1940's. There is not even the pretense of carrying forward the political independence of the working class which is obligatory for real Marxist-Leninists (genuine communists). Gus Hall and his gang are not even putting their own party candidates into the field, even on the basis of their liberal program. There is but one thought in their minds: how best to put the bear hug on the Democrats. The CPUSA is gambling that open, naked opportunism will put them in leadership of the wide masses. Their real objective is to barter with the liberals. In return for the workers' votes they deliver, the CPUSA can count on hefty donations from and some cushy government jobs in a so-called "progressive" administration.

The Democratic Party is a ruthless party of the U.S. monopoly bourgeoisie. It, along with the Republican Party (the other major capitalist party), exists for the sole purpose of maintaining the exploitation of the workers. Through these parties, the capitalist are able to hold in check the oppressed workers; they are able to place the burden of the current crisis on the backs of the laboring people and the oppressed nations. Consequently, these parties, by their nature, are an alien force to the workers.

Therefore, for anyone who calls themselves a communist to embrace the Democrats or Republicans is to commit an unforgivable act of treason against the workers and oppressed nations. It is a thoroughly opportunist policy, it sacrifices the basic interest of the workers for some immediate gain (real or imagined). This line subordinates the workers movement to the liberals. It throws overboard Marx's theory of class struggle and puts in its place the foul doctrine of class collaboration.

As in the past, the CPUSA tries to propel the workers into the arms of the Democrats by frightening them with the danger of arch-reactionary "Reaganism".

We have "two objectives" in the elections, says James Steel, a leading figure in the CPUSA: "to inflict a net loss of four Republican senators, wiping out their Senate majority; to change the political and ideological initiative from the forces of Reaganism ..."

(Political Affairs, March 1986 p.10) According to this snake, "in 1986, only through the Democratic Party is it possible to shift the political balance and ...defeat Republican incumbents" (Political Affairs, August 1986, pg.15).

These fake communists present the Democrats as the only possible force to defeat evil Reaganism. They conveniently forget the revolutionary class struggle of the workers and what colossal strength it can unleash against the fascists if it were led by a genuine communist party. To foist the "old mule" on the workers, the Democrats are made to undergo a miraculous transformation. The CPUSA conceals the part played by the Democrat's in initiating and rubber-stamping the main policies of "Reaganism." The Democratic majority in the House of Representatives and their cohorts in the Senate have voted in favor of cuts in workers' wages, social programs, cuts in the taxes of the rich, and increases in the taxes on the workers. They have voted for the gigantic military budget, for financing the "contras", for measures to increase government repression, etc. What is it that the workers would gain by putting more Democrats in Congress? Only more of the same!

This does not stop the pseudo-Marxists of the CPUSA from reasoning that a number of Democrats are "significantly better" than the present Republicans. Indeed, our cynical pragmatist Mr. Steele reasons "that even if the Democrat who defeats the Republican incumbent is conservative, the net effect of shifting the balance in Congress and control of the Senate will uproot the Reaganite coalition, subjecting the conservative Democrat to greater pressure to act differently." In plain words, this cock-eyed notion means that even the election of a Reaganite Democrat will be a "victory" over Reaganism. Only one who is cynically dealing in votes would pretend to believe such a lie.

All of the Democratic politicians, including the liberals, agree with Reagan's basic aims: to preserve the capitalist order from revolutions, to place the burden of the crisis on the backs of the workers, etc. The basic agreement between the Democrats and the Republicans on the overriding importance of these questions is the basis of their close unity despite small differences over tactics.

Sinking deeper into the quagmire, Mr. Steel has the effrontery to adduce a "constructive engagement" argument to justify support for the counter-revolutionary Democratic Party: "The people would lose much of the minimal leverage they now have for pressuring Democratic elected officials...." if the workers abandon the Democratic Party. This is Reagan's lying justification for propping up the South African regime - we must embrace Botha in order to

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THE MASSACRE IN OKLAHOMA: Fruit of the Fascist Mercenary Culture

Many people are still stunned by the August 20th murder of 14 Postal workers in Edmund, Oklahoma. On that tragic morning, Patrick Sherrill, a part-time letter carrier, walked through the postal facility and systematically killed 14 employees and wounded another 6. He was armed with two .45 caliber pistols, a .22 and lots of ammunition. The massacre ended when Sherrill shot himself.

Now, people are trying to answer the excruciating questions, why did this happen? What would motivate someone to do this terrible thing?

The capitalist press has tried to prove that Sherrill's "deformed personality" was the cause of the tragedy. They have denied the obvious, that his personal psychology was fashioned by the current capitalist political, social and cultural environment.

Sherrill Was a Fascist

On the basis of the sketchy, censored information provided by the authorities, one essential fact stands out: Sherrill was a fascist. He was a follower of the violent mercenary political trend which specializes in torture, murder and mass mayhem. Books and magazines found at his home (such as the *Soldier of Fortune* and "survivalist" tracts, etc.) are popular within the "merc" circles.

Soldier of Fortune is the main mercenary publication in the U.S. The magazine sells t-shirts picturing mutilated Black bodies, violently white supremacist books and all manner of weapons and instruction for murder and mayhem. It has articles on how to kill people with knives, machetes, nunchucks, etc. It shows photos of mercenaries proudly displaying the bodies of workers they have killed in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It typifies the most bestial fascist mentality. It is a CIA recruiting tool for counter-revolutionary forces. Advertising in its pages the

U.S. government unofficially recruited men to fight for the white supremacist regime in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), in support of the fascist South African regime and against the Nicaraguan people. It is rabidly anti-communist and anti-proletarian. Its publishers organize para-military training in conjunction with police and military forces.

The Capitalists Are the Source of Fascism

The capitalist class is the financial backer and organizer of the ultra reactionary mercenary trend. The deepening crisis of world capitalism, has presented new problems for the imperialists. They have had to more and more augment the regular police and army forces with more specialized, fascist sub-groups ("Special Forces", SWAT teams) as well as extra-legal paramilitary groups to hold in check the revolution at home and abroad. These paramilitary groups go under various names (Klan, Posse Comitatus, "survivalists", the Order, the Aryan Nation, etc.) Both the legal and illegal groupings have one thing in common - they are the most die-hard capitalist watchdogs. Government support for this trend is brought out by the fact that military facilities and military trainers are used for the paramilitary gangs, whether they are legal or illegal formations. It should be remembered that the guns used in the Edmund killings were signed out to Sherrill from the Oklahoma National Guard.

In order to popularize the morbid mercenary culture the capitalists produce of ultra-jingoist, militarist and violent movies, videos, books, etc. such as "Rambo", "Top Gun", "Death Wish", and "Cobra". No doubt this popular propaganda also worked to egg on Sherrill.

During the Vietnam war Sherrill joined the Marines. He served his entire time in the U.S. but made up stories about

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bring pressure on him.

In reality, just the opposite is true. As long as the Democrats smugly believe they have the workers securely in tow, with the help of the CPUSA, they will feel little necessity to make any concessions to them. Only when the workers decisively break with this capitalist party and move in the direction of revolution, will the Democrats make hasty moves, as they did in the 1930's, to try to appease the workers' movement.

Alliances with the capitalist politicians Lenin warned, "are the worst way of exercising pressure on them." Concessions are won, not by tailing the liberals, but by revolutionary struggle. They are won by fighting for the maximum aims, not by "those who opportunistically curtail the aims of the struggle before the fight." The tactics of the CPUSA, far from protecting the immediate and vital interests of the workers, only insure that the workers continue to be a plaything in the hands of the oppressors. The liberal Democrats are very pleased with the tactics of the CPUSA because they know that this will help them get back into office and regain their lion's share in the theft from the treasury. They also know that this policy will temporarily divert the workers from the path of revolution which the objective conditions and the crisis are urging on.

Revolutionary Election Tactics of Genuine Marxist-Leninists

The election tactics of the CPUSA is a flagrant corruption of the revolutionary theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism, which in all its work and at all stages of the struggle, keeps in the forefront the basic character of political forces, the basic features of our society and the revolutionary demands of the workers. The CPUSA does the opposite. Their tactics conceal the true nature of the Democratic Party - as an arm of the capitalist dictatorship. They substitute the revolutionary demands of the working class - the overthrow of the capitalist order and for the establishment of the dictatorship of the workers - with a reformist electoral platform. The political independence of the workers is re-defined as the fight for petty reforms. The liberals are presented as champions of these reforms, as being "anti-nuke", "pro-labor", for "labor rights", "peace" and so forth. Through this vague reformist talk the CPUSA draws the workers to believe there is a big difference between the Democrats and the Republicans.

These revisionists defend their opportunist tactics as a temporary feature of the struggle. But the underlying premise shows that it is the same old, bankrupt, opportunist strategy that they have been pursuing for over four decades.

Genuine Political Independence

The working class stands in opposition to the capitalist class. This is the outcome of the capitalist social relations of production: workers are wage-slaves who produce all of society's wealth - capitalists are parasites who own the means of production and appropriate this wealth as private property.

This is the fundamental contradiction in society. Communists, said Marx and Engels in *The Communist Manifesto*, "never miss a chance of impressing upon the minds of the workers that there is an essential antagonism between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat."

Our view of election tactics, and all our tactics, must proceed from this. As Lenin said, a component part of the class war against the bourgeoisie is "a ruthless ideological struggle against the formation of blocs with the Cadets [the main bourgeois liberal party in Russia at that time - ed.]." That is the lesson of Leninism. It is the lesson of building a proletarian party "as the vanguard fighter in the revolution and not as an appendage of the bourgeoisie."

The Bolsheviks did not abstain in principle from participation in elections, but used the opportunities of electoral campaigns to agitate for the revolutionary views and program of the party. Bolsheviks did not seek office to pursue careers as bourgeois politicians - they were tribunes of the people. One of these Bolshevik deputies, Comrade Badeyev recalled the instructions for an election campaign: "The Party must wage a merciless war against the tsarist autocracy and the parties of landlords and capitalists that support it, persistently exposing at the same time the counter-revolutionary views and false democracy of the bourgeois liberals. Special attention should be paid in the election campaign to maintaining the independence of the party of the proletariat from all the non-proletarian parties..."

The lessons of the Leninist party are still valid. The U.S. workers' movement can only advance its revolutionary potential to the extent that it recognizes the nature of the Democratic Party, the two-party system and the capitalist state, and **breaks** decisively with the political parties of the bourgeoisie. The Democratic Party is owned and managed by the capitalist class; that is its nature, it cannot be changed. The CPUSA presents an anti-Marxist, counter-revolutionary view that "political independence can not be reduced to structural separation from the two-party system," thus distorting the fundamental teachings of Marx and Lenin, and justifying its loving embrace of the capitalist politicians.

Its tactics in the election campaign of 1986 further expose the reactionary nature of the CPUSA. It is an adjunct to the main bourgeois parties and is equally dangerous. The leaders of the CPUSA are just liberal politicians - Gus Hall is no different than Edward Kennedy when it comes to the main question - the preservation of capitalism. Kennedy wants a liberal capitalist state; Hall a revisionist capitalist state.

The present task of class conscious workers is to build a revolutionary vanguard party, one that is true to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and capable of revolutionary electoral work. It must be a party capable of leading the struggle for the capture of state power and socialism. Only such a party will fight for the political independence of the workers. The workers must march and fight under their own banner, with genuine revolutionary slogans.

AFRO-AMERICANS TAKE ARMED ACTION AGAINST FASCISTS

Greensboro, North Carolina

On Thursday night, July 31, Afro-American youths carried out organized armed resistance. They struck back at a gang of klan-type youth who had been harassing and beating Blacks as they walked across a K-Mart parking lot. This lot, located in Northeast section of Greensboro, has become a site of repeated attacks on Afro-Americans in recent months.

Armed with baseball bats and a couple of shotguns, the Black youths went to the lot and confronted the fascists. In the struggle a couple of the white racists were injured. Having dispersed the fascists, the Blacks returned to their homes before Greensboro police arrived on the scene.

The Greensboro capitalist class and their police force howled about this incident because the Afro-American youth had successfully defended themselves and were not intimidated. The Greensboro police admitted that they had reports of so-called "racial" incidents in the parking lot before - yet nothing had been done to stop it. That is until the Afro-American youths resisted these outrages. Then the authorities launched a full "investigation" and have threatened to arrest the Black youths who acted responsibly in self-defense. This is blatant hypocrisy and is condemned by all progressive and revolutionary people of the city.

The Government Encourages Fascist Attacks

The failure of the police to intervene against these fascist gangs is further proof that the government encourages and organizes this type of assaults. If more proof is needed, just recall the open collaboration of the Greensboro police with the klan and nazi thugs who murdered 4 anti-klan demonstrators in 1979.

The history of the Greensboro area, being on the border of the Black Belt South, is replete with severe repression of the Afro-American people. Lynchings, police murders and other bestial acts are typical of the treatment handed out to the descendants of the slaves, who today are an extraordinarily oppressed, captive nation of the U.S. capitalist state. This is the real source of the events that took place in the K-Mart parking lot on the night of July 31.

It is in the very nature of the rich employers (the capitalist class) to organize and promote fascist terror against the working class and the Afro-American nation. In the capitalist system a handful of rich billionaires live off the labor of the workers. In the AfroAmerican nation the capitalists reap even greater profits through the **super-exploitation** of the workers. The workers and the oppressed do not willingly submit to this oppression and exploitation, so it is necessary that the rich employ a body of armed men and women (the police, the military etc.) to terrorize the masses and hold them in check. As since this can't always be done legally,

the rich resort to the use of auxiliary forces as well (namely the KKK, the Order, Nazis, etc.)

The the simple brute force of the state is not enough to keep the rich parasites on top. Therefore, they must use a **divide and conquer** strategy, and pit the white workers against the Black workers. By spreading white chauvinism and racist ideas and hiring the Klan-types to whip up conflicts between blacks and whites, the rich capitalists secure a breach in the unity of the workers. This breach sometimes is so wide that the Black and white workers are not able to unite for the desperate and necessary fight against their real enemy, their common enemy - the rich employer class. To make things more "secure" for themselves, the rich capitalist give a few crumbs (in the form of higher wages and social privileges) especially to the top section of the white workers to make them trusted allies in the exploitation of the majority of workers and the Afro-American nation. But the masses of common white workers are brutally exploited and oppressed by the rich capitalists making them, objectively, class bothers with the black workers.

The Duties of Class Conscious Workers

In the fight against the national oppression of the Afro-Americans, it is the duty of Marxist-Leninists to carry on unrelenting communist agitation, propaganda and organizing work among the black and white workers in the Black Belt and border areas. We must bring forward our revolutionary program on the national question. This program provides for the joint struggle of all workers of the Black Belt against every form of chauvinism and racism against the Afro-American people, it provides for a joint struggle of all workers of the Black Belt for the right of separation for the Afro-Americans of that area. It calls for the joint struggle of all workers of the U.S. and the Black Belt for the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism. We know that this great transformation is the only way to permanently eradicate the national oppression of the Blacks because it removes the root cause: capitalism and private ownership of the means of production. In addition, the new workers' state to be formed within the territory of the U.S. will unconditionally recognize the right of the Afro-American nation to withdraw and form an independent state in the Black Belt if they so choose. The proletarian state, at that time, would organize itself on a truly democratic basis; it would not **force** any nation to remain within its state borders. For those nations which did not wish to separate, it would work for the creation of a federative union of independent socialist states, where each nationality enters voluntarily and on the basis of true equality, which is guaranteed by the retention of the right to secede.