

Welcome to Inner-Party Democracy!

THE JUAREZ CLUB, Los Angeles County, CPUSA, expresses its confidence in our national leadership and commends that leadership for its wise policy of leaving wide open all questions of program and policy pending the fullest and freest pre-convention discussion. This, to us, is a welcome concrete expression of that inner-party democracy to which most of our leading cadres, including the national, have much too often in the past given only lip-service. At the same time, we do not consider that the national leadership is absolved from the obligation of taking part in that discussion.

The Juarez Club hails this democratic approach to the very serious and fundamental problems confronting our party in this critical period and demands that this approach be institutionalized and implemented to cover all phases of party life and activity to the end that bureaucratic centralism shall be replaced with democratic centralism.

The Juarez Club, recognizing that responsibility for the imposition of bureaucratic centralism upon our party does not rest entirely with the leadership, solemnly pledges to vigorously oppose any tendency, from whatever quarter, to continue or rehabilitate this utterly reprehensible and harmful practice.

To assure the fullest participation of the membership in the pre-convention discussion and convention decisions, it is necessary that the membership be kept fully informed on discussions in the national and other top committees. The Juarez Club condemns present methods of haphazard, distorted and diluted reports to the membership



on discussions in the national committee, etc. We demand that the membership receive adequate information on the thinking of the leadership, including dissident or minority views.

The Juarez Club, moreover, expects and insists that the views of the membership, as developed in the pre-convention discussion, shall be reflected in the decisions of the convention, in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism.

THIS CLUB also takes this opportunity to express its adamant opposition to any and all ideas and proposals aimed at the liquidation of the Communist Party, U.S.A. Our members are similarly opposed, with one exception, to any change of name for our party. It is our collective opinion, with the one exception noted, that the results sought by those proposing a change of name can be effected only by repudiating at the same time our basic principles and this, to us, is utterly unthinkable.

"A rose," as the poet said, "will smell as sweet by any other name." In the same sense, a Marxist party in mid-twentieth

century America will inevitably be red-baited and smeared no matter what name it adopts.

The answer to such attacks on our party is not to masquerade under false colors, but rather to sink our roots deep among the American people by the application of correct policies, tactics and hard work, and the utilization of the vast reservoir of good-will existing among many sections of the working class and the Negro people for our party, as a result of its relentless struggles for better working conditions, for the rights of the Negro people, for peace and decency, with a socialist America as its ultimate goal. We reject the contemptible thesis that our party stands today "hopelessly compromised, politically and morally."

This club fully recognizes the necessity for a searching reappraisal by our party of its program, policies and tactics, of frank criticism of past errors and determined efforts to correct those errors and guard against their repetition. We condemn, however, present tendencies to ignore all that is good and inspiring in our past.

We suggest that while there should be no diminution of principled criticism, no lag in our determination to root out bureaucratic methods, sectarian thinking and mechanical application of Marxist principles to the American scene, it is nonetheless high time that we discarded the sackcloth and ashes as a permanent garb and pried ourselves loose from the Wailing Wall.

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OUR PARTY has made serious errors, it is true; not the least being our uncritical attitude towards other Communist parties and the socialist coun-

tries. But our mistakes were honest mistakes, if still inexcusable. (How many groups can truthfully say the same of much of their policies since 1914?) And certainly we were not the consistently inept blunderers, the unmitigated fools and idiots that some flagellant comrades seem to take a masochistic delight in depicting us to have been.

We have many correct policies and achievements to our credit. We have written many a glorious page in American history, as an integral part of the American people. Our party has contributed greatly to the growth of the American labor movement and to the development of the now burgeoning freedom struggle of the Negro people. We have helped advance the cause of the Mexican-American people and other minority groups. We need no apology for our existence.

If we are at present isolated from these movements, that isolation can be overcome in time by the correction of past mistakes, the elimination of incorrect policies, tactics and approaches, and by hard work.

We already are making some small gains in the labor movement and there are countless ways in which we can actively help, and rally support to, the Negro freedom movement.

Let us, then, resolve to pry ourselves loose from the Wailing Wall and conscientiously and vigorously carry forward the necessary task of reappraisal and the wiping out of bureaucracy, sectarianism, doctrinarism — and right opportunism as well.

Long Live the Communist Party, U. S. A.!

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