

False Solution to False Problem

In Memphis, Tennessee, in the heart of the Negro Nation, the USNA imperialists are making a major effort to foment white chauvinism and co-opt the Negro people's strivings for liberation by again bringing the issue of forced busing before the public. The imperialists recognize that in order to keep the Negro Nation under colonial domination, their overall strategy must include two major tactics. First, the unity of the Negro workers and the Anglo-American minority workers in the Negro Nation must be prevented at all costs. White chauvinism is the tool used to create and maintain such disunity. Imperialism thrives on inequality and division in the working class, for only if the proletariat is divided can the capitalist class maintain its hegemony. Secondly, the imperialists must maintain political sway over the Negro people's strivings for independence and prevent the proletariat from gaining an independent political position.

The busing law is directed at working class children, involving whole families in ugly white chauvinism. It is a fascist tactic which forces children away from their communities into others under the guise of achieving "racial integration." It sets Negroes against Anglo-American minorities, playing upon white chauvinist fears. Busing is presented by the imperialists through the federal courts as a "liberal reform." But it is obvious that busing is just one more part of the overall imperialist strategy of exploitation and oppression - pretending to solve a problem imperialism itself creates while actually fomenting division in the working class and squelching all efforts at independence on the part of the proletariat. There are nowhere near enough decently equipped and staffed schools for all the children in the Negro Nation - the result of years of imperialist oppression. The imperialists are utilizing the busing issue to promote fighting among the Negroes and Anglo-American minorities over who gets the good schools. What the proletariat must realize is that there is no possibility for quality education under capitalism.

The current controversy in Memphis was kindled in August by the city government's announcement that it could not obtain enough gasoline to carry out its busing program this year. Memphis Mayor Wyeth Chandler was trying to use the bogus gasoline shortage to stop school busing, which he has consistently opposed. Then the imperialists stepped in to whip the controversy into major pro-

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the face of this serious threat to its sovereignty. It is not enough to pay lip service to the courageous Chinese people; real support must take the form of revolutionary action. And history is compelling us to take the only action that can seriously threaten the hegemony of the two super powers, the building of a Communist party to lead the working class into battle to defeat USNA imperialism.

It is critical that the proletariat of the USNA have a vanguard detachment at this difficult time in history. And therefore, every comrade and Marxist-Leninist grouping must redouble their efforts to build the factory circles, develop the route systems, influence the organizations of the class and prepare for the Party Congress. International events, Comrades, are changing very quickly and we must change with them in order to build the Party of a New Type.

Busing

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portions. The Exxon Company, which supplies gasoline for city, police, fire and school vehicles, at first said it could not supply enough gas; then for a couple of weeks it hemmed and hawed; and finally, just before the opening of school, Exxon announced it could provide the necessary fuel - all the time fanning the flames of white chauvinism by keeping Memphis citizens in the dark about what was going to happen to their children. During the hem and haw period, the NAACP filed a law suit charging Exxon and Mayor Chandler with conspiracy to deprive Memphis school buses of gasoline and thereby stop "integration through busing." A federal court judge throughout kept ordering that the busing must take place, regardless of the gasoline shortage.

Since school started, the buses have been consistently late, have missed stops, lost children, and have been so overloaded and unsafe that city officials refuse to even reveal the number of accidents in which the buses have been involved. (1) Meanwhile, the Anglo-American minority churches have set up scores of new private schools and led the Anglo-American minority parents into believing that these fly-by-night private schools can provide the children with a better education. The fact is that these new schools have so few economic resources that they cannot nearly provide the children with the necessary equipment and teachers. Since 1970 when the city schools had 51.6% Negro and 48.4% Anglo-American minority students, the Anglo-American minority enrollment in city schools has decreased by 32,878, making the current school population 68% Negro and 32% Anglo-American minority. (2) This is in a city whose overall population

is 38.9% Negro and 60.8% Anglo-American minority.

Despite what the imperialists would have us believe, they are not interested in providing quality education, nor are they interested in solving what they call "racial" inequality. Their interest is in maintaining control over their most important colony and continuing to extract super profits from it. However, we must be careful not to take a mechanistic approach to their power by thinking that the imperialists can do anything they want. It is true that they have state power which is a clear advantage over the proletariat, but they are also saddled by the social conditions in which they find themselves. Thus, at one point in history they may be able to control the Negro Nation by just using the army, while in another period this tactic is unsuccessful. The social motion that we are currently witnessing in the Negro Nation is towards neo-colonialism. This does not mean that the imperialists are attempting to turn the Negro Nation into a neo-colony with its own state apparatus, but it does mean that the motion is towards putting comprador Negroes into political office and co-opting the Negro peoples movement by carrying out liberal reforms, as they have done in Puerto Rico.

It is easy to see why this imperialist tactic of having Negroes control Negroes is so vehemently opposed by Mayor Chandler and other Anglo-American minority politicians within the Negro Nation. Until recently they have been the ones to rule for the imperialists in the Negro Nation. Negroes in political power present a direct threat to their political positions, and thus it is in their interest to halt busing and similar tactics.

Forced busing is a clear cut example of how the imperialists are seeking to cloud the real issues by proposing false solutions to false problems. They realize that the key to disarming the proletariat is to prevent a united proletariat from gaining an independent political position. Lenin deals with this fine example of bourgeois mysticism in his "Preliminary Draft of Theses on the National and Colonial Questions": "It is the very nature of bourgeois democracy to treat the question of equality in general and national equality in particular in an abstract or formal way. Under the guise of the equality of persons in general, bourgeois democracy proclaims a formal or legal equality between the property owner and the proletarian, between the exploiter and the exploited, and thereby grossly deceives the oppressed classes. The bourgeoisie transforms the ideal of equality, which is itself a reflection of the relations of commodity production, into a weapon in its struggle against the abolition of classes, pretending that all men are absolutely equal. The demand for equality has real meaning only as a demand for the abolition

of classes." (3) The proletariat must be resolute in rejecting the notion that the imperialist leopard has changed its spots and now speaks for the Negro people.

We will not be fooled into thinking that equality through integration or an end to "racism" through busing is the answer to exploitation and oppression. The main contradiction in the Negro Nation has never been nor will it ever be the contradiction between Negroes and Anglo-American minorities. The line of Marxism-Leninism is clear that the question is a class question - a question of whether the imperialists control society or the working class controls society. We know that the only real basis for equality of peoples is the equality of nations which means freedom from imperialist oppression - regardless of its form. We must see through imperialist tricks like forced busing. We must demand independence for the Negro Nation.

What is the correct path to revolution and independence for the Negro Nation? It is to build a multi-national Communist Party, based on an understanding of the national question which follows the guidelines of Lenin and Stalin and recognizes the Negro question as the Negro National Colonial Question. Only such a party can unite with the Negro people and with the struggles of all oppressed nationalities and bring them together under the banner of the proletariat. Only such a party can act as the proletariat's general staff, to lead the working class in establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism.

- 1) The Commercial Appeal, 9/23/73
- 2) Ibid., 9/12/73.
- 3) Lenin on the National and Colonial Questions, Peking, Foreign Languages Press, 1967, p. 21.

Ethiopia

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the area, despite the fact that they had not been able to farm the previous year.

Today, the recognition that there is famine or trying to help the famine-stricken has become punishable. How else could one explain the arrests of the students who went to Dessie to deliver relief funds that had been gathered by students who have given up their breakfasts' to help the famine-stricken? The feudal-fascist government is so afraid of exposure that it is reported to have killed 9 students and wounded over 40 during a peaceful demonstration to expose the government's denial of the famine. It is also reported that four students were killed during a peaceful demonstration that the students held in protest over the denial of water from springs by the blood-

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