

CLP DIFFERENT FROM CPUSA

Many people have asked, "What is the difference between the Communist Labor Party and the Communist Party U.S.A.?" In this article we hope to give our readers an explanation that will provide them with the necessary understanding so they can clearly see the differences and choose between the two parties.

In a recent pamphlet, Gus Hall, leader of the CPUSA, wrote that US imperialism is "collapsing," that it has lost the initiative and is "deteriorating by itself." He paints a picture in which the working class of the US must only wage a mild struggle for reforms against "collapsing" imperialism. The CPUSA claims that by struggling against the big monopolies, the rough edges of imperialism can be smoothed off, paving the way for a peaceful transition to socialism.

A look at history proves this outlook wrong. The CLP refuses to make the same mistakes that have been made historically by the CPUSA and other parties that have failed to base themselves on the correct Marxist-Leninist understanding of imperialism.

The CLP understands that imperialism can never "collapse of its own weight." Historically, imperialism is on its way out; but if we look realistically at the world around us, we can see that imperialism, and particularly US imperialism remains very strong. It has been crippled by permanent crisis since the emergence of the Soviet Union and the bright light of socialism following the 1917 October revolution. But like a wounded animal, imperialism has become fiercer, more violent and rages more furiously against the peoples of the world.

Only recently the peoples of Angola successfully freed themselves from the bloody grip of US imperialism. Did imperialism "collapse" in Angola; was it so weakened that the Angolans merely waited for it to fall and then shoo-ed it away? No! That was not the case. The Angolan people freed themselves from imperialism by waging the most heroic and fierce struggle against imperialism. Supported by progressive peoples and many socialist countries, they were able to rally a courageous and determined struggle, and were finally successful in driving the imperialists from their homeland.

How can the workers here in the US struggle against their single most dangerous enemy, US imperialism?

According to the CPUSA, the workers of the US must help to build an anti-monopoly coalition, must curb the power of the monopolies, and then use the ballot box to legislate socialism into being.

We of the CLP do not agree. We understand from history that imperialism cannot be turned back into some nice generous capitalism of yesteryear. Capitalism was never good for the proletariat. As it develops into imperialism, capitalism enslaves whole nations and peoples. The oppression and discrimination against the Negro people is a result of the imperialist enslavement of the Negro Nation in the South. The wretched life of poverty of the Puerto Rican, Mexican and Filipino national minorities results from the US imperialist colonial oppression of their homelands. The high life enjoyed by many workers in the US is bought and paid for with the sweat of the oppressed peoples of the world. And now as more and more of the world through valiant struggle, as in Vietnam, Cambodia, Angola, and Cuba, frees itself from the grasp of imperialism, the imperialists are forced to turn the screws on the millions of workers still caught in their vice of profits.

In short, while losing ground around the world, US imperialism becomes more fierce and violent where it still holds power. If we were to follow the "advice" of the CPUSA and limit our struggle to a few reforms and an anti-monopoly coalition, we would only play into the hands of the imperialists. The CLP cannot do this. We understand that as imperialism grows more threatened, it throws aside its "mask of Democracy" and hurls against the workers its ultimate weapon—fascism. In order to understand what fascism is we need only look at Hitler's Germany—slave labor, mass murder, unbridled terror. That is fascism. While the CPUSA advises us that imperialism is "collapsing," the CLP realizes that it must warn the workers and begin to build the united front against fascism. The imperialists are rapidly moving toward fascism as the only solution to their deepening crisis.

The CLP understands that the building of the united front of the working class against fascism is accomplished through united action of the working class. In the struggles on shop floors against speedup, "productivity," and attacks on the standard of living of the workers; in the struggles for busing and against the oppression of the Negro people, in the fight for jobs with peace, unity is built among the workers, unity of action, and preparedness to defend their class against fascism.

The CPUSA also fights for busing, for jobs and peace. But they see these struggles as an

end in themselves. Busing will end discrimination. A few more jobs will end unemployment. The CLP refuses to make this mistake. We fight for busing, but we understand that full equality of the Negro people can only be based on freedom for the Negro Nation. We fight for jobs with peace, but we understand that full employment and peace can only be achieved with the final defeat of imperialism and the establishment of socialism. Whether on the shop floor, or in the halls of Congress, the CLP sees the burning necessity of educating the workers and progressives to the necessity of socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat. It is this strategic outlook that determines our tactics and shapes our struggles.

On the other hand, we fight hard for busing, for jobs, for better conditions; we fight to defend the standard of living of the workers, against the fascist gangs, the Klan and the Nazis. We fight every day for a better life. The

FORD STERLING STRIKE

The Ford Sterling Plant is the only gear and axle plant for the massive Ford Motor Co. The Sterling Plant produces all of the rear ends for all Ford cars, from the Continental Mark IV to the Pinto.

Because of its importance to Ford, this plant has many 7-day a week operations; departments which have been working overtime for the past 5-10 years.

The Ford Sterling Plant is represented by Local 228—UAW. Even though the struggle over forced overtime is a pressing issue at the Sterling Plant, the struggle over health and safety is the leading issue in this important contract year. The Sterling Plant is leading the fight for better safety conditions.

In recent months a fork-lift driver was killed, another seriously injured. A press operator lost both thumbs and parts of several fingers. A woman received 35 stitches above her eye after slipping in some oil. The stacked steel coil in Department 22 has fallen twice, once completely covering an aisle which could easily have been full of people. A moving stock trailer full of brake drums fell into an assembly line because the wheels on the stock trailer were faulty. No one was hurt, but only because they happened to be on relief and away from their work stations.

These are just a few of the safety hazards at the Ford Sterling Plant. But on Friday, February 27, an incident occurred in Department 16 night shift which pushed the struggle around health and safety to a breaking point. A worker operating a Lasalle grinder was having trouble. He took his rear-end housing to the foreman to show him the scars his grinder was making on the housing. The foreman ordered a machine repairman to fix the grinder. The worker returned to his job. But the grinder continued to scar the housing and the worker again went to the foreman with the scarred housing.

The foreman flew into a rage, picked up the housing and threw it at the worker, striking him in the leg. The rear-end housing for Thunderbirds and Mark IV's weighs about 90 pounds. The worker's leg was broken.

The plant safety man, along with the Bargaining Committee, met with plant management and demanded that the foreman be removed from the job while the incident was under investigation. The company flatly refused. The Bargaining Committee took a resolute stand that the Foreman himself was a safety hazard, that his presence constituted a clear and present danger to the health and safety of the workers at Ford Sterling.

The whole day shift responded by refusing to work. The Ford Motor Co. declared the action an *unauthorized work stoppage* and penalized 9 union representatives. Local 228 leadership was not stopped. At a union meeting on February 29, a motion for a strike vote was received enthusiastically. The vote was 3441 **yes** and 462 **no**.

On March 2, the Local 228 Bargaining Committee moved 71 health and safety grievances out of the local plant level to stage D-1, with 100 more grievances following within a week's time. All grievances were advanced to stage D-2 and Ford Motor Co. was put on notice with official strike authorization.

On Tuesday, March 23, all 6,500 workers at the Ford Sterling Plant hit the bricks over health and safety issues. By Friday, March 26, workers at the Dearborn Assembly Plant and at Ford in New Jersey were laid off because of lack of parts. The Ford Sterling strike would have paralyzed the whole Ford Motor Co. in **one week**.

An agreement was reached on Monday, March 29.

The struggle of the workers at Ford Sterling is a clear example of the pressing issue of health and safety that workers throughout the US are faced with. Health and safety must play a key role in upcoming contract negotiation demands. The workers must demand contract language that starts

difference between us and the CPUSA is that we also fight to organize and educate the workers. We fight to prepare the working class to defend itself against fascism and pass over onto the offensive. We fight for socialism. We fight for busing, for jobs, for free and universal medical care and a 35-hour week. We fight for all these things and more. But above all, we bring to these struggles the ideas of socialism.

Unlike the CPUSA, we do not limit our struggle to a struggle for reforms while waiting for the "imminent collapse of imperialism." We struggle for reforms as a means of defeating the advance of fascism and building a united working class, the only force capable of smashing imperialism for good and erecting on its grave a socialist society that can truly bring the workers a life of well-being based on the fullest realization of jobs, peace and equality for all.

from the stand point of the workers' rights and not the *companies' responsibilities*. The CLP supports the valiant struggle of the workers at Ford Sterling—this struggle must be carried forward. The foreman in Department 16 is still on the job. Union representatives were still under penalties at the time of the strike. The workers must continue to fight for the right to immediately withdraw their labor power from any unsafe work place. Carrying the militant spirit of this struggle forward, the workers must win their just demands in the 1976 contract struggle:

End compulsory overtime.

No speedup.

Strict enforcement of a 35-hour week.

Safe and healthy working conditions.

Detroit School REACTION ATT

The Detroit School "Desegregation" Plan points out clearly what is in store for our youth. Because of the economic crisis, the bourgeoisie no longer needs the numbers of workers that at one time were necessary for the development of capitalism. The DeMascio "Desegregation" Plan attempts to use the educational apparatus to fetter and demolish the productive potential of whole sections of working class youth, for under decaying capitalism, with a continued growth of the army of unemployed, the education of whole sections of working class youth is both unprofitable and unnecessary to the enemy of the working class—the capitalists.

The plan outlines 23 educational components that are to be implemented, but which in fact will not be implemented without additional funds. With the cutbacks of \$17,000,000 to Detroit schools, the chance of any of the progressive components being implemented is nil. It is important to take note of the three components that have been implemented. These are Vocational Education, the Monitoring System, and the Uniform Student Code of Conduct and In-Service Training. These three are the key aspect of the educational components and point out the destructive nature of the plan.

First, Vocational Education. DeMascio has provided for special City-Wide Vocational schools with emphasis on construction, transportation and health services, industries deemed important to Detroit's future. This component operates to divide the working class further by selecting a certain group of individuals for these "special schools" where they will be tracked into good paying, skilled jobs—bribed positions. The rest of Detroit's youth are left to fend for themselves in inferior schools that will send them directly into low paying jobs, unemployment or the military.

Second, the Monitoring System. DeMascio has provided for monitoring systems that will oversee different aspects of the plan. Along with the police already stationed in the schools, monitors are a group that DeMascio hopes will exert control and discipline over the students. Several aspects of the monitoring system are progressive and encourage community involvement, but these were allotted little or no funding; only those systems designed to control students have been given adequate funding.

Third, the Uniform Student Code of Conduct and In-service Training. This code, written by DeMascio, while supposedly guaranteeing every student the right to an education, strips students of their basic rights. The code deals with two types of behavior, *Illegal Behavior* and *General Prohibited Behavior*. *Illegal Behavior* includes such things as assault, robbery, extortion,