

REVISIONIST CAMPAIGN FLOPS

In a year when more people than ever showed their dissatisfaction with the two-party election system of the capitalists, the revisionist Communist Party (CP) exposed itself to be a complete flop as far as providing any real alternative to the Democrats and Republicans.

Nearly half of the registered voters demonstrated this disenchantment by not going to the polls. Despite such widespread dissatisfaction, and even though the CP devoted more than a half-million dollars and all their manpower efforts to the Hall-Tyner campaign, results for the revisionists were negligible.

The final tallies have not yet been released by the election board. There is already enough evidence, however, to indicate that the working people refused to ac-

cept the warmed-over liberalism of the CP as an alternative to the Democrats and Republicans. These figures also point to a rejection of the CP's defense of Soviet social-imperialism and their rhetoric of "detente is good for America."

An example of the big revisionist flop could be seen in San Francisco, long an area of concentrated CP activity. According to figures released in the CP's own newspaper West Coast People's World, the CP was only able to get 1,756 votes in that city. In California, they were even outpolled by the Trotskyists at a three-to-one clip.

In the large industrial area around Akron, Ohio, where thousands of rubber workers just completed their largest strike ever, and where unemployment and poverty are gripping tens of thousands of workers and their families, the CP

got a few hundred scattered votes.

Of course, the CP had played a treacherous role in the rubber workers' strike, tailing completely behind the sell-out policies of the Bommarito leadership in the URW. This is something the class-conscious workers don't easily forget.

Occasional pockets of relative CP strength could be seen in a few college towns like New Haven, where perpetual congressional candidate Joelle Fishman got 3,000 votes, but the Hall-Tyner campaign itself fizzled.

The reason for the flop, according to the revisionists themselves, is "the stubbornness of the lesser of two evils voting habit" held by the masses. There is a real irony in this blame-it-on-the-people theory. For the last 25 years, it is the CP

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which has been the main promoter of the "lesser of two evils" theory. Furthermore, if Carter's support from only one-sixth of the population reveals anything, it is the serious weakening of the system's hold on millions of people.

The least the revisionists, Trotskyists, Labor Partyites and other opportunists hoped to do was to swing the election to Ford by getting enough of the Carter vote. According to these opportunists, the main "detente" spokesman was Ford's right-hand man, Henry Kissinger, and a vote taken from Carter meant a vote for "detente." Yet the CP could not even poll a fraction of a percent of the vote in one of the closest contests between the Democrats and Republicans in history.

Another excuse the revisionists give for their miserable showing

according to People's World is "the specter of Watergate" and the worsening economy which still hang over the country, prompting people to vote for Carter. The logical question to this absurd argument is: "Under what better conditions could communists run an election campaign?"

Even the partial results so far released prove that the revisionist program of phony superpower "detente" and wishy-washy reforms of capitalism are not what the working class wants or needs. While the upsurge of the strike movement and the growing fight-back against the effects of the worst economic crisis in 40 years are rocking the capitalist boat, there is no real revolutionary party to guide that struggle to victory.

The smashing defeat for the CP revisionists is further evidence that this is not the party of the

proletariat in their millions. It is a bankrupt, degenerate party of imperialism and social-imperialism that is being rejected by the very same class-conscious workers who will be won to active support for the real Marxist-Leninist vanguard when it is formed.

Of course, the defeat for the revisionists does not mean that they are dead. They are still a great danger to the revolutionary movement of the working class with the strength of Soviet social-imperialism behind them and long-developed talents for treachery within the labor movement and progressive organizations of the people.

The election was, however, a defeat for their bankrupt campaign which they were claiming would "mark a new era for the Left." On the contrary, it marked only a new low in the degenerate history of opportunism.