

Our Readers Speak Out!

Trotskyites Chase Klan/Nazi Scum, Let's Bourgeoisie Off Hook

June 15, 1980

Dear Workers Viewpoint,

During the Party's campaign around the Kokomo anti-Klan demonstration we worked in a coalition with some Trotskyites, the Revolutionary Socialist League (RSL). Throughout the campaign and in the sum-up afterwards there was a lot of struggle, particularly over the role of the state and how to deal with it. I took up some independent study of Trotsky on fascism to find out why their line was so screwy and to deepen my grasp of our Party's correct line. Although I must study more and deeper to better grasp our correct line on fascism, I would like to convey to comrades and friends some of the fruits of my study to help them deepen their knowledge of Marxism and give them more ammunition to defeat the Trot lines and tendencies wherever they pop up.

The underlying fallacy in the Trots' argument is that they see fascism as an independent movement of the petty-bourgeoisie and lumpen-proletariat. Trotsky wrote: "The essence of Fascism and its task consist in a complete suppression of all worker's organizations and in the prevention of their revival. In a developed capitalist society this goal cannot be achieved by police methods alone. There is only one method for it, and that is by directly opposing the pressure of the proletariat—the moment it

weakens—by the pressure of the desperate masses of the petty-bourgeoisie. It is this particular system of capitalist reaction that has entered history under the name of Fascism." (This and all subsequent Trotsky quotes taken from a book by Trotsky called *Germany 1931-32, What Next?*, Chapter II, "Democracy and Fascism")

In other words, Trots say that the bourgeoisie's police and state apparatus can no longer do the job, so the bourgeoisie is forced to turn over a large degree of power to the fascist petty-bourgeoisie to destroy the workers' organizations. The main point to criticize is that the fascists are seen as developing independent of the bourgeoisie and the state. In fact, Trotsky sees the pre-fascist state as a neutral "transitory regime" between the two "irreconcilably inimical" systems of bourgeois democracy and fascism! He says of the Bruning dictatorship in Germany just prior to the ascent of Hitler to power, "Bruning's regime is a preparatory regime. Preparatory to what? Either to the victory of Fascism, or the victory of the proletariat." As if the state didn't actively help Hitler and actively attack the proletariat! It's only "preparatory" to one or the other, says Trotsky. "He [Bruning] hasn't decided to this very day to hand power over to Hitler." This is Germany in 1932. He's talking as if finance capital hadn't already thrown their full fi-

nanacial support behind Hitler and already planned out their moves to place their man in power to save their rule! This is fully consistent with RSL's doubts if the state planned the murder of the CWP 5. Maybe the FBI hasn't really infiltrated the Klan and is giving it direction!?! Perhaps they don't believe that the FBI and the CIA are being streamlined. Maybe the government really isn't weakening unions with anti-labor legislation and wage controls, or at least this has nothing to do with fascism? Maybe Carter really isn't setting up a secret court. Trots are blind to the truth!!

Seeing fascists as a petty-bourgeois movement independent of the state and the direction of the monopoly capitalists lead them to rely on the state for protection. RSL, hard hats and steel toe boots alone will not protect you in Kokomo or anywhere else. In fact, just prior to Kokomo the RSL said they would be worried if the state wasn't there. They were worried that if the state wasn't there the Klan would attack them. So the state was there to protect them, right? In their eyes the CWP was being provocative when we demanded to march and confronted the state in Kokomo. RSL, we were prepared to deal with all eventualities in Kokomo. There will be no more Greensboro for us. But the bourgeoisie will gun you down because of the Trot line you

uphold.

In addition to setting them up for the kill, the Trot line is running the RSL and assorted other Trots ragged. Do you ever wonder why Trots are forever running to where ever there is a Klan or Nazi demonstration to counter-demonstrate? In this period that is a lot of running around. Trots see fascists as a movement independent of the bourgeoisie that must be stopped by direct action of the proletariat. We believe in beating the fascists' heads in, but we see it as only a part of an integral strategy and plan for accumulating forces to overthrow the bourgeois state and capitalism, the root of fascism. The bourgeoisie, desperate to maintain its rule, is trying to impose fascism on the American people now. Note, I said the *bourgeoisie*. The fight against fascism and against fascists is a tactical component of the fight for socialist revolution. Trots, seeing fascism as separate from the bourgeoisie, see fighting it as a separate task, although they might tack on some "socialist propaganda." Thus, to fight fascism they are *obligated* to run to wherever the fascist show up. This line has no strategic thinking behind it and will burn a lot of people out, as well as lead Trots into situations that could have been avoided where they will be at a tactical disadvantage against the fascists.

Finally, it is also worth further criticizing how Trotsky only sees

fascism metaphysically, one dimensionally, and understands nothing of its development. As indicated in the first quote from him, he sees the crushing of workers' organizations as the essence of fascism. In fact, he sees the workers' organizations as "bases of proletarian democracy: the trade union, their political parties, their educational and sports clubs, their cooperatives, etc." This is irregardless of the *leadership* of these organizations! But in fact, who did the bulk of the work in destroying the workers' organizations? It was Social-Democrats, reformists, misleaders! They were and *are* like Trojan Horses, killing from within. Trotsky's line is to ignore the hand in hand relationship between fascists and reformists, in essence to let the reformists do their dirty work of preparing the ground for the fascists to move in. Trotsky writes, "Social-Democracy . . . derives its support from the workers." True the reformists are able to carry out some of their treachery because they do mislead some workers. But Trotsky never says a word about the support the Social-Democrats get from the *bourgeoisie*, support which Lenin said was their main source of strength! Trotsky never mentions this because he got his support from the same place! *

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